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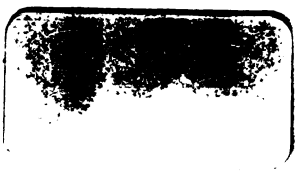
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California Woodpecker 2-4	40
Louisiana Tanager 1-3	80
Western Meadow Lark 5-4	20
Orchard Oriole 5-4	08
American Redstart 5-4	20
Cassins Sparrow 1-3	50
Rusty Song Sparrow 1-4	45
Western Flycatcher 6-3	20
Black Phoebe 1-4	15
Rough-winged Swallow 1-7	85
Broad-winged Hawk 1-3	3 00
Wilson's Thrush n-4	50
Large-billed Puffin 1-1	98
Tufted Puffin 1-1	25
Cassin's Auklet 1-1	30
White-faced Glossy Ibis 1-3	75
King Rail 1-6	45
Black Tern 10-3	10
California Partridge 1-13	90
Duck Hawk 1-1	1 58
Audubon's Warbler 1-2	1 00
Pileated Warbler 1-3	50
California Thrasher 3-3	20
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THE OÖLOGIST.

VOL. XXI. NO. 1. ALBION, N. Y., JANUARY, 1904. WHOLE NO. 198.

THE OÖLOGIST.

A Monthly Publication Devoted to

OÖLOGY, ORNITHOLOGY AND TAXIDERMY.

FRANK H. LATTIN, Publisher,
ALBION, N. Y.

ERNEST H. SHORT, Editor and Manager.

Correspondence and items of interest to the student of Birds, their Nests and Eggs, solicited from all.

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Chili, Monroe Co., N. Y

Leconte's Sparrow.

* From the author's proposed work on Southern Minnesota Ornithology.

Ammodramus Leconteii.

Leconte's Sparrow has long been recorded in ornithological works as occurring in a few favorable and somewhat restricted localities in Minnesota. For a period of years they have been observed in Freeborn, Big Stone and Grant counties and recently in Steele county, while a number of distinguished ornithologists found these Sparrows and secured some specimens in the vicinity of Minneapolis. The Rev. P. B. Peabody found them breeding in the northern counties of the Red River Valley. According to various reports, in Iowa to the south they occur only as a migrant and in Manitoba on the north of us as a regular though rare breeder. A number of well known ornithologists of extensive observation have found them breeding in this Province in the vicinity of Reaburn. I first made my acquaintance with the Leconte Sparrow during the season of 1901, being introduced to a number on April 21st, on this occasion I did not secure any specimens so am not postive of the identity although it is doubtless correct for later investigations under the most favorable opportunities proved them as such.

Late in the afternoon of May 29th found me near a narrow strip of marshy land through which extends longitudinally a large ditch containing two large areas of land of a similar nature. These marshes formerly produced a luxuriant growth of various wild grasses, but lately have been drained and so closely pastured that now only a scant growth is perceivable while in some places it is nearly devoid of vegetation. The narrow connecting strip mentioned, however, has firmer soil (being slightly higher) and produces a good growth of rank grass.

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While I was crossing this strip and particularly when near the ditch my attention was suddenly attracted to the chirping notes of a pair of small sparrows not far away. Soon I espied them restlessly flying about among the grass and small bogs. Upon critical scrutiny I arrived at the conclusion that they were none, other than the rare Leconte Sparrow and by their restless actions and continuous chirping decided that they must have a nest in the immediate vicinity. Immediately I commenced to search at first looking only in the most likely places, but finding nothing I returned and began a most thorough search spending more than an hour within an area six rods wide and about ten rods long contiguous with the ditch, although with the closest and most patiently applied searching nothing in the form of a nest could be found. Nearly discouraged at such a failure I withdrew some distance to a higher point for observation and awaited further results. Almost simultaneously the loud and excited chirping ceased, yet they were very uneasy constantly moving about either taking short flights or swiftly running on the ground from bog to bog, thus occasionally I would get a glimpse of them or hear an almost inaudible chirp. It was exceedingly difficult for me to keep the location of both birds for to my disadvantage the sun had already disappeared and now small things were rendered less distinct in the twilight. To keep pace with the fast approaching dusk it was absolutely necessary for me to move nearer so that I might be within observable distance. This of course I cautiously did and finally on the verge of darkness when nearly every thing was obscure I boldly ventured forth directing my steps toward a spot where I had seen the birds go several times but not staying long on any occasion, and where one of the birds was now. I came so suddenly upon her that she had barely time to leave the nest which to my disappointment contained three young birds and an egg about to hatch. It was now too dark to measure or correctly note the composition of the nest, so I deferred further observation to a future date, and thrusting a stick into the soft earth not far away for a mark I decamped. Returning four days later on June 2nd I found four young birds well developed for their age occupying the nest, which I photographed, but upon developing the plate a poor negative was the result. The nest was effectually hidden in a thick growth of grass and well sunken in the mossy ground, it was composed entirely of fine dry grasses so arranged that the finer materials formed the internal lining and measured inside 1⅛ inches deep and 2¼ inches diameter. This family of young birds lived a comparatively short life for on the morning of the succeeding day June 3d. they were found dead in the nest the appearances evidently indicating that they were crushed beneath the foot of some "critter." On the preceding day June 2nd after a short tour and search about the marsh I succeeded in locating another nest about sixty rods distant, containing one young bird about ten days or two weeks old. The location and composition of this nest were identical to the one above described and measured inside 1¼ inches deep by 2¼ inches in diameter. During the following two weeks I made many trips to this marshy area and spent many hours in fruitless search but on the 15th was amply rewarded for all my time and exertions involved in the enterprise, for after two or three hours of the most patient and critical searching I was so fortunate as to flush a sitting bird from its nest which to my delight contained five eggs. This nest was only sixteen paces from the

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last one I found and evidently belonged to the same pair of birds, being an attempt to rear a second brood. The nest was placed in a luxuriant growth of grass intermingled with a variety of marsh weed, in this respect the location differed from those previously found, I did not then disturb the nest as I desired to obtain a photograph of the nest and eggs in their original situation, but not having my camera with me I could not do it, so had to leave it for the time being but I returned on the 17th for that purpose fully equipped with the necessary apparatus. I approached the nest cautiously and came up to about four feet before the bird left, then she hopped out and swiftly ran away through the grass but in a few moments joined her mate who was chirping vigorously and flying about uneasily.

Carefully parting the grass so a clear view of the nest could be obtained the camera was then brought into action and two plates were soon exposed, both, however, upon developing proved to be fair negatives, one of which is here reproduced in the accompanying half-tone. This nest was constructed of dry brittle blades and stems of grass with a few bits of green moss distributed around the rim, the lining consisted entirely of a species of fine round grasses.

The dimensions were inside 1½ inches deep by 2⅛ inches in diameter a cavity was excavated in the mossy ground 2½ inches deep and 3 inches in diameter. All these nests were very frail structures, for after taking them up they would almost fall to pieces, thus are preserved with great difficulty. The five eggs were far advanced in incubation but with the free use of pancreatin and the utmost patience in their manipulation, three were finally successfully prepared for the cabinet, they measure respectively .71 X .55, .72 X .56 and .73 X .54 inches an average of .72 X .55 inches. Slightly larger than the sizes generally given. The ground color is grayish white, specked and dotted with brownish and lilac, over which are thick and heavily spattered large blotches of various shades of dull brown.

EDW. W. SPRINGER,
Owatonna, Minn.

Editorial Greeting.

To many of the readers of the OOLOGIST I need no introduction. During the past Fifteen years as a Collector, Writer and Dealer I have become acquainted either personally or by correspondence with many of you.

In assuming the duties and responsibilities incident to the Editorship of the OOLOGIST my first object in view is the success of the publication from the point of view of the subscribers.

Only in this way can we hope for ultimate success.

For this reason suggestions from subscribers will always be welcome. Many have already made suggestions. Some of these will be adopted.

It is the earnest wish of both Publisher and Editor to place the publication in the position it occupied 10 years ago.

Now as then it can only be done by the co-operation of the subscribers with us.

To give you an up to date Journal we must have financial support. If you have friends interested in the Birds, call their attention to the OOLOGIST. Tell them of the advantages offered by its Monthly EXCHANGE and WANT Columns, by its Question and Answer Column; by its helpful Suggestions and records of the experiences of other Collectors.

Advise them to send to the Manager for free sample copy and circulars.

This will advance the best interests of the OOLOGIST rapidly from every point of view.

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We can give you a better Journal, your EXCHANGE and WANT Ads. will have a wider circulation. More Advertisers will be attracted and you will be kept better posted.

Our Subscribers can help in another way. Send me records of collecting trips and unusual finds; descriptions of home made tools and cabinets; records of your experience in using solvents in blowing eggs, or preservatives and insecticides for specimens.

These may be of value and if so we don't ask you to write for nothing.

Interesting photos of Birds and nests will also be acceptable if plain in detail.

There is a concerted demand for a new Check List and Standard Catalogue of North American Eggs. We will endeavor to supply this in serial form running through the '04 Vol. of OOLOGIST.

All Subscriptions, Advertisements, Manuscript and Suggestions or Complaints should be addressed to ERNEST H. SHORT, Editor and Manager, Chili, N. Y.

Dr. Lattin is a busy man professionally and has no time to devote to such matters.

I am here to take care of these matters and they will receive promptest attention if addressed to me direct.

Now another word. Every possible effort will be made to protect Subscribers from fraudulent advertisers, both in Exchange and regular advertising Columns.

To do this I must be promptly notified when any advertiser fails to meet his obligations. At any time my opinion as to the identity of any specimens you feel doubtful about will cost you nothing but the postage both ways provided you are a paid up Subscriber.

Typographically the Editor will endeavor to co-operate with our Printer to produce a creditable publication.

Assuring you that I shall devote necessary time and trouble to the OOLOGIST and asking your charity when I make mistakes as every one does.

Faith u

ERNEST H. SHORT,

Jan. 1st. 1904 Chili, N. Y.

P. S. By the way,—I wish to thank my many friends and patrons for numerous good wishes and congratulations I have received dur ing the past month. E. S.

Editorial Notes and Clippings.

BREEDING OF MYRTLE WARBLER.

The following extract from an article by C. J. Young in the "Daily Herald" of Guelph, Ont. we deem of enough general interest to reprint here.

"Of the nests, the Black-throated Blue was in a small maple sapling near a hardwood bush, found May 28th, when it contained four fresh eggs. This is the usual location for that species. The nest of the Myrtle Warbler was in a second growth pine, two other nests in small cedars, a fourth in a small spruce, each from five to twelve feet from the ground. With regard to this bird, I notice it has a decided preference for the vicinity of water in the breeding season, as three out of the four nests referred to were located on islands in the lakes hereabouts, the other was in a tamarac swamp not far from Sharbot Lake, and one I found some years ago was in a cedar alongside of Calabogie Lake, in Renfrew County. In each case the nest was largely built externally of twigs of spruce and hemlock (I have preserved two of them), and the lining consisted of feathers, which were in every case a prominent feature. The late Mr. McIlwraith mentions this, but Mr. Kells, of Listowell, has apparently not observed it, writing in the O. F. Naturalist Magazine, Vol. xvi., Nov. 7, of a nest he found as being lined with rootlets and hair. It does not therefore seem

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that the features are invariably present, though undoubtedly they generally are; the opposite being the case with the Magnolia."—*C. J. Young in "Notes from Thicket and Swamp" Guelph Daily Herald, Dec. 14th, 1903.*

I note in September issue "Bulletin of the Michigan Ornithological Club," pp. 83, a record of Four sets of 5 eggs of Red-shouldered Hawk taken by Mr. J. Claire Wood of Detroit, all found in Wayne Co. Mich.

In the Collection of Mr. W. A. Davidson of Detroit, there were three sets of 5 each taken by Mr. Davidson in '97, '98 and '99 from the same pair of birds in Ecorse Township, Wayne Co., Mich. and he spoke of another set taken by Mr. E. B. Schrage of Pontiac in '96.

Southern Michigan seems to be raising a family of *B. lineatus* given to laying sets of Five.

Up to this year I had never seen one.

Ed.

EXTRACTS FROM LATE ISSUES OF BULLETIN OF MICHIGAN ORNITHOLOGICAL CLUB.

Vol. IV., No. 2.

"As we go to press we hear from Mr. Norman A. Wood, as follows: Oscoda County, July 3rd. Started out at 6:45 this morning to look up *D. Kirtlandi* and had five males in my basket before 9 o'clock. No females found so I suppose they are setting very close—no nests found yet. Have found nest with two young of the Gt. Northern Shrike; young are full fledged, nest not very bulky, built in pine tree.

We shall expect a more extended sketch of this trip by Michigan's well known "warbler man" for our next issue."

Just after this issue had gone to press Mr. Wood returned home from his trip north in quest of the Kirtland's Warbler with gratifying success, having obtained a fine series of skins, male, female, nestlings, full-fledged young, nest and eggs.

Mr. Wood also obtained some two dozen photographs of the birds (in life) and their nests. The material of this trip prepared by Mr. Wood and illustrated by the photographs, will be given to our readers in the third issue. The editor also hopes to be able to give a colored plate of the egg.

A. W. B., Jr.

Vol. IV., No. 3.

The papers on the Kirtland's Warbler promised to appear in this number have been deferred to a later issue. Mr. Wood has since made a second trip to Oscoda county in company with Prof. Reighard. Ed.

Owing to the universal interest of this subject to all Ornithologists I have reprinted these extracts in full.

All of us will look forward to Mr. Woods article with anticipations of a treat and the Editor offers congratulations on his rare find.

WM. WILKOWSKI, JR. Kalamazoo, Mich., reports three Purple Finch Dec. 7th. Is not this unusually late? Also records Pine Grosbeak from 1st to 6th of Dec. and states that none were seen after that date. He saw a flock of fifty Lapland Longspur on Dec 6th. Judged by W. New York standards that would be an exceptionally large flock. They have usually came to the editors notice in small numbers associated with the Snowflake.

Periodicals Received.

"Atlantic Slope Naturalist" Vol. I, No's. 2, 3, 4 and 5.

"Bulletin of the Michigan Ornithological Club" Vol. IV, No's. 2 and 3.

"The Condor" Vol. V, No. 6.

"Notes from Thicket and Swamp" Daily Herald, Guelph, Ont. 3 issues.

Comments on articles specially noted will be found under Editorial Notes etc.

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Question Column.

H. Steenstrup, Chicago, and others. How do Collectors get their set mark? Ans. There are many systems followed by Collectors in marking eggs. The most common is as follows—A Collector secures his first set of Song Sparrows in 1904 and he marks it this way;—1—; 1 because it is his first set of that species for the season; 4 because there were four eggs in the set His next set would be 2-3, 2-4 or 2-5 according to the number of eggs in the set. Now this does very well for one year but suppose he goes over the same system next year and places his 1905 sets beside the 1904 takes in his Cabinet. Now we will suppose some one tips over two or three trays containing sets collected in as many different years. If the sets happen to be of the same size and order all three will be marked 1-4.

He then has three dates for 12 eggs all marked 581‡.

Will he ever be sure that he has separated them right? Hardly.

Again suppose he packs six or more of the sets to ship in exchange. (I have had as high as 20 sets of one kind). In this case the party who gets his eggs can never be certain that he has placed each set with its proper data.

Many advanced Collectors now mark this way,
For 1904—04 1-4, 04 2-4 etc.
For 1905—05 1-5, 05 2-5, 05 3-5 etc.

This is much better but it makes necessary a few more marks on the eggs and the fewer marks the better as every mark carries some risk of puncturing the egg as well as marring its appearance.

I consider the following method the best of all.

Get your Data blanks in the Checkbook form and keep a record of all sets mark on the stubs. Then begin with your first take of a certain species Marking all the eggs simply with the A. O. U. No. and the letter —a—.

Mark your next set of this species —b, the next —d—etc, up to Z.

This will take care of 26 sets of one species, now begin on Capitals thus A, B, C, etc.

Then if you collect a very large series as sometimes happens when you find a colony you can begin on the 53d. set thus a a, b b, etc. to z z. After that, 1 a, 1 b etc. then 2 a etc. to 2 z.

This system makes less confusion, requires fewer marks on the eggs and admits of more expansion than any I know of.

In marking a set of eggs always put the marks in the relative position to the blow hole on all the eggs of one set. If you mark the first egg to the right of the hole try to mark all of that set in the same position.

This often helps in sorting sets from different Collectors where some often happen to be marked alike.

The Editor.

Don't be afraid to ask questions.

The Editor will devote this Department to as full an answer as space permits

Franklin's Gull.

Few, indeed, of those who are familiar with the eggs of Franklin's Gull have any vidid knowledge of that erratic gregarious bird, whose summer home is in the middle northern area of North America, from Southern Minnesota northward. There are two known breeding places within our border—one in Minnesota, and one in North Dakota, where the birds sometimes breed; but some seasons not. In Autumn they swarm, in thousands about the larger Dakota and Minnesota lakes and marshes.

P. B. PEABODY.

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The Pine Grosbeak.

By A. B. Klugh, Sec'y Wellington Field Naturalists' Club, Guelph, Ont.

On Nov. 5th '03 large flocks of Pine Grosbeaks (*Pinicola enucleator canadensis*) arrived and since that date up to the present (Dec. 15) they have been common.

Here this bird is an irregular winter visitor, but this year is apparently competing for a place as a winter resident.

These flocks have been composed mostly of females and immature males, the former in their smoky-gray uniform with orange on head and rumps, the latter showing all graduations of plumage from that of the female to the adult male.

The adult male is a remarkably handsome bird, having the head, breast and rump of bright carmine pink and the feathers of the back edged with the same color. When seen among the conifers, whose branches each bear a burden of snow, he presents a most beautiful picture.

The chief diet of the Pine Grosbeaks for some time after arriving was the seeds of *Solanum dulcamara* (Nightshade). They plucked the berries off the vines, and in eating them rejected as much as possible of the fleshy portion. A considerable part of their time was spent upon the ground, where they fed on the seeds of *Polygonum hydropiper* (Smartweed), and caught insects, which they greatly relished. I also noted them breaking open the galls on the Willow(S. discolor) and eating the insects within. Another favorite food of theirs appears to be *Ambrosia artemisiaefolia* (Ragweed). When feeding on this plant, they hop on to a stalk, which usually bends down with their weight, when they stand upon it and pick off the fruits. While feeding upon the ground, the warmth of their feet melts the snow which then adheres to their toes in the form of icicles, and the removal of these with the bill, requires much nipping and tugging, and a sort of gymastic performance.

A Scotch Cormorant Colony.

On the 6th of May we cross the woods to the White Lock (*Wigtownshire*) a lake of about 1¾ miles by ½ a mile, where Islands have been the breeding ground of *Phalacrocorax Carbo* as long as I remember. We row out to the first small island, the birds flying off rather wild, there are 73 nests in various stages of building, but very few completed and only 7 eggs. The next island, rather smaller, has only 26 nests, but there are 17 eggs, one nest containing 4. We now approach the big "Scart island" as it is named, as quietly as possible and landing at its low end steal up behind a big cairn of stones. The smell of a Cormorant Colony is not soon forgotten, and some of us have recourse to our handkerchiefs. The birds here pay us no attention, most are sitting on their nests building round with large heather sticks while others are stealing from their neighbors' nests, near at hand some exciting tugs of war are going on, and many are flying in from the shore with pieces of heather or large sticks in their powerful bills. Now we raise a shout and they all fly off helter skelter, in great confusion, their wings flaying in the water, and then circling round, alight on the water at some distance. One or two have the presence of mind to take a stick with them. Here are 243 nests and 467 eggs, many containing full sets Some are content with a few sticks loosely put together, but the "Marthas" build an elaborate structure 1½ feet high by 22 inches, closely put together, of heavy sticks, well hollowed and lined with dry grass. Some of

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the sticks are 1½ inches in circumference and 2 feet long, the nests are all very close together, on flat rocks near the water's edge.

J. G. GORDON,
Corsemalize, Whauphill,
Wigtownshire, Scotland.

474 Horned Lark.

(*Otocoris alpestris*)

While I was out walking on Friday, March 28, 1902. I saw a nest with 3 eggs in. I did not recognize the eggs but I put them in my handkerchief, as I did not have my collecting box with me, and carried them home.

I found out from an oologist that they were the eggs of the Northern Horned Lark, so called because they breed up in Labador and Newfoundland. This one had evidently staid behind to breed as it was the only one around.

The eggs are greenish-gray with pale brownish-gray spots, which form a ring around the thick end. They are about the size of an English Sparrow egg averaging .90x.64.

The nest was composed of grass lined with feathers and set in the ground. It was not hidden at all as you could see both nest and eggs very plainly quite a way off as there was no grass or weeds to hide it.

This is accidental, as this bird's eggs are rarely found so far south as Toronto. These eggs are invariably mistaken for those of the Shore Larks, but the Ornithologists here have decided that they belong to the Northern Horned Lark as the Shore Larks have not come up yet and the Northerns had gone up a few weeks in advance of the finding of this nest.

R. G. AUSTEN.
Toro nto, Ont.

Cooper's Hawk, in Orange County, Cal.

While passing through a dense willow forest at the mouth of the Santa Ana Canyon in May of last year, in company with a young collector, I flushed several adult Cooper's Hawks from perches among the branches, and was not a little surprised, when he, on climbing to an old nest, held up a single, small, pale blue egg. He returned to the nest ten days later and took a typical set of four fresh eggs. He is 30 miles away and I do not remember the exact date, but believe them to be the first ever taken in this county.

H. H. DUNN.

Book Review.

COUE'S "KEY TO NORTH AMERICAN BIRDS."

We are notified by the publishers; Dana, Estes & Co., that the long expected 5th Edition of Cowes Key is now ready for d livery.

This masterpiece of Dr. Coues has been greatly delayed by his unfortunate death just as the manuscript was completed.

The work, published in two large volumes and profusely illustrated, is not only a complete analytical and descriptive Key of every Bird (living and fossil), known to occur between Mexico and the North Pole but it is also a key to their breeding habits and eggs as far as known.

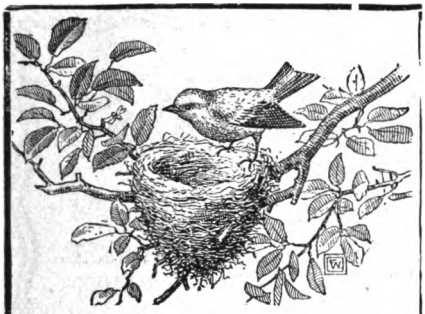
This 5th edition revised is by far the most complete and valuable all around reference work for American Ornithologists and Oologists.

The nomenclature has been changed to comform to the American Ornithologists Union and it contains 200 life studies by Fuertes.

Either the Publisher or Editor of the Oologist will promptly fill orders for this work at the Publishers price.

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VOL. XXI. No. 2. ALBION, N. Y., FEBRUARY, 1904. WHOLE NO. 199

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THE OÖLOGIST.

VOL. XXI. NO. 2. ALBION, N. Y., FEBRUARY, 1904. WHOLE NO. 199

THE OÖLOGIST.

A Monthly Publication Devoted to

OÖLOGY, ORNITHOLOGY AND TAXIDERMY.

FRANK H. LATTIN, Publisher,
ALBION, N. Y.

ERNEST H. SHORT, Editor and Manager.

Correspondence and items of interest to the student of Birds, their Nests and Eggs, solicited from all.

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ERNEST H. SHORT, Editor and Manager.
Chili, Monroe Co., N. Y.

Patched Together.

BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER AND OTHERS.

The Editor has just closed a pleasant correspondence with Mr. C. F. Stone of Branchport, Yates Co., N. Y. in regard to the identity of two sets of Warbler's eggs and it has occurred to him that parts of Mr. Stone's letters patched up, would prove as interesting to many readers of the Oologist as to him.

In regard to the sets Mr. Stone was in doubt about, following is copied from correspondence of Nov. 19th, 1903.

"I had come to an open space in dense bushes, (a bush lot surrounded by hemlocks), and noted two or three dense growths of beech sprouts from stumps.

I looked at one likely bunch putting my hand in the top where the leaves were matted and, with a loud flutter, away went a bird. I peered over into the nest which was hidden in the dense foliage. It rested on the dense and tangled leaves and sprouts, concealed all around but open to the sky. The female when flushed dropped to the ground and remained out of sight for two or three minutes, then I saw her coming back through the low bushes but she was so lively that a real good look at her was impossible. Here is a description of the female that I gained as she flitted in a most lively manner through bushes, high and low, or through dead limbs close to the ground.

Under parts from breast to within about ¼ inch of end of tail a soiled yellowish, brighter in the rear. Breast dusky, throat dingy white, side of head and upper neck bluish ashy, upper parts uniform dark olive brown, tip of tail blackish on underside for about ¼ inch.

This Warbler's note or "chip" is peculiar, wholly different from any other warbler I've ever heard. It is strong, vigorous, alto-toned, musical, seems to approach the "chip" of the Maryland Yellow-throat yet different".

The eggs, four in number taken June 21st., 1903, contained small embryos. After comparing the set and

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To return to Mr. Stone's interesting letter I would quote as follows:

"I was very fortunate with warblers this year as I took fine sets of Cerulean, Canadian, Pine, Magnolia and, rarest of all, a beautiful set of Blackburnian. I found two nests of Black-throated Green but they are extremely sensitive and deserted leaving one nest undone and the other with one egg. This particular place is very rich in warblers and I have great expectations for next year. Lots of Canadians, 12 or 15 pairs, Magnolia, 12 or 15 pairs; 3 or 4 pairs of Black-throated Green, Black and White, also 3 or 4 pairs La. Water Thrush".

I think all Oologists will agree that Mr. Stone struck an Egg Collector's paradise and I hope to be able to accept his invitation to "Come and see me" some time next season.

I have taken some rare sets of warblers, notably, Mourning, Nashville, Golden-winged, Cerulean, Black-throated, Blue etc., but Canadian, Pine, Magnolia and Blackburnian have always been among my un attainables.

ERNEST H. SHORT.

ODD AND RARE BIRDS.

WONDERFUL COLLECTION FOR THE SMITHSONIAN.

Specimens Gathered on a Recent Cruise on West Coast of Sumatra and Bay of Bengal. Dr. Abbott's Researches.

C W. Richmond, assistant curator of the division of birds, which is located in the Smithsonian Institution, is busy arranging and identifying over 570 specimens of rare and curious birds from Dr. W. L. Abbott's collection, obtained from islands of the west coast of Sumatra, in the Bay of Bengal, on his recent cruise. There are strange, foreign pigeons, hawks, swallows, crows, orioles, owls and so on almost without number.

About six species of various colored

considering the nest and nesting site I unhesitatingly pronounced it a set of Black-throated Blue.

They are a creamy or buffy white boldly spotted with lilac and splashed with brown, no decided tendency toward wreaths at larger ends.

These eggs measure, .77x.58; .76x.57; .76x.56 and .75x.55; very large for this warbler and remarkably even in size.

They are by far the prettiest set of this bird that ye editor has ever been privileged to view.

Mr. Stone sent on for comparison another authentic set of this bird taken from a similar nesting site in Cortland Co., N. Y., in June 1899.

This set is remarkable in being so far from typical both as to eggs and nest. The nest is compactly and neatly felted and in shape and construction, except as to materials, it resembles many examples of the American Redstarts art.

All other nests of this bird that I have observed were loosely made and rough in outline.

The four eggs in this set are marked very similar to typical sets of Magnolia Warbler with ends well wreathed. They are also very small measuring .69x.52; .67x.52; .67x.57 and .66x.53. The ground color shows very little of creamy tint and the markings are more specks than spots. *No blotches.*

I have in my possession another set I took near Buckbee's Corners, Monroe Co., N. Y., last June, from an exactly similar nesting site and nest as Mr. Stone's set. They were badly incubated when found. Size of eggs is intermediate between the two sets described above, in fact about typical. Color creamy with a bluish tint boldly blotched with brown in light shades, heaviest at larger end but not decidedly wreathed. Very few lilac shell markings on these eggs. A pretty set only that the advanced stage of incubation rendered large holes a necessity.

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ouckoos, of all sizes, are represented. Among these is the Ground Cuckoo, which is the largest, and is distinguished by an unusually long claw, that aids in walking.

Vari-colored and finely shaped kingfishers are present in large numbers. These birds, as, indeed, nearly all the others, present a gorgeous appearance as they lie side by side in the large, flat boxes in which they are being placed for safekeeping, their beautifully colored breasts facing upward.

There are three or four species of these birds. The most striking is the Stork-billed Kingfisher. It has a long red bill, from which it gets its name, an orange-colored breast and cobalt blue wings. A considerable number of these birds are in the collection.

Another species of the kingfisher is one belonging to the genus Halycon, an old Greek name. The kingfisher was thought by the Greeks to be a harbinger of good probably because of the superstition that its nests floated on the sea, and thus were a sign of calm weather.

There are several smaller and more brilliant kingfishers in the Abbott collection, which resemble more closely than the others the common European variety of this bird. There is one also which is peculiar on account of its having three toes instead of four.

Mr. Richmond has a number of swallows, or swifts, of the kind that build the famous edible nests, so highly prized as delicacies by the Chinese. These birds are grayish-white in color, and have very short legs. They never perch, but are continually on the wing, except when on their nests; and for this reason longer legs would be superfluous.

Their nests are built in caves, where they are easily accessible, if it is ever possible to discover the caves. Some nests are pure white and others brown, the former being considered the most appetizing. They are made of certain kinds of seaweed, mixed with the saliva of the bird. The nests sell, among the chinese, for a sum equivalent to $40 per pound.

The contribution includes several specimens of a kind of crow, that resembles the American variety in color and form, but is much larger.

There are a number of birds that are well known throughout the East as Bulbuls, and are famed for their singing. They have brilliant yellow breasts and glossy, brown backs.

A kind of pigeon, known as the fruit pigeon, is represented by a large series. These birds feed on nutmegs. They are about a foot long from tip of bill to tip of tail

Many gorgeously colored orioles are in the collection. Their colors are yellow and black, like the Baltimore orioles, but they are of an entirely different family. The American variety is sometimes called "new world oriole" in distinction from the true or "old world" oriole.

Besides all these birds there are Rails, Sandpipers, and many others that have not yet been identified. The collection, when mounted will be a handsome addition to the Smithsonian exhibit,

Dr. Abbott, who is a resident of Philadelphia, has been collecting mammals, birds, insects and ethnological specimens ever since the year 1887, and has joueneyed to many different countries and islands of the sea to accomplish his purpose. He has placed the United States museum under great obligations, and the work he has done has won an expression of most sincere appreciation. For two winters Dr Abbott has collected specimens from islands in the east. Previous to his recent trip he visited the Andamans and Nicobars, and the account of the cruise, is given by C.

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Boden Kloss, an Englishman of Singapore who frequently accompanies Dr. Abbott.

The cruises are made in the Terrapin a Singapore-built teak schooner, 67 tons yacht measurement, of which Dr. Abbott is the captain and owner. She is 65 feet long and 16 feet broad, and draught is 7 1-2 feet. She is provided with suitable equipments and the arrangement of the quarters is such as would be desirable for sailing in the tropics The crew, five ordinary seamen, a "serang," or boatswain and a sailing master are Malays. Natives, it is said, are far more satisfactory in nearly every way on a small boat in the tropics; than are white men, even if the latter could be obtained. The Malays can put up with more restricted quarters, are less inclined to grumble under peculiar circumstances, or to be disobedient, are more at home in every way in their surroundings, and, most important of all, keep in good health and can stand the sweltering sun. A Chinese "boy" and cook are also carried.

The Terrapin is well provided with places for storing the numerous specimens which are collected on every voyage.

The schooner left Singapore on the trip before the last in October, 1900, cruised off the coast of Tenasserim, and among the islands of Mergui archipelago. A few days were then spent in the Malay peninsula, where several wild deer and pigs were obtained. After visiting High Island, where an unsuccessful search was made for skeletons of an animal known as the sellung, and where a number of birds and mammals were added to the collection, the schooner left for the Andaman Islands, which lie to the west of the Malay peninsula, in the Bay of Bengal. There are four large islands in the group and many smaller ones, They are excellent places for research far students in Natural history. Below these are the Nicobar Islands, a smaller group.

The Terrapin cruised among both of these groups, stopping here and there to visit the natives and collect things of interest. To a lover of natural history and ethnology nothing more like a paradise could be imagined, it is said.

Hundreds of specimens were secured, every one of which is at present mounted or preserved in some way at the United States museum. Little trips into the interior were made, either on foot or in boats, and explorations made up small creeks or inlets. Photographs were taken, which to-day bring back pleasant recollections, and are very helpful to the curators of the museum in their study.

Not until April did Dr. Abbott leave the islands and sail toward Sumatra and for home,

On his more recent trip he returned to the same general region, though devoting his time to collecting among the little islands just west of Sumatra. The specimens which he secured here are still being unpacked and mounted in the museum. In a previous issue of the "Star" the domestic implements, weapons, decorations and many other articles, showing the habits and customs of the natives, were described, But these are but a small portion of the immense collection presented as a result of the cruise.

In fact, Dr. Abbott's last contribution has proved to be so excellent that, in reward for his unexampled services to um, it is said there is a movement on foot to confer upon him an honorary title in the institution. If no class now exists into which he could be placed it is supposed bv officials of the museum that a new and separate one will be created in order that some recognition of his services may be made.—*Washington Star, August 1903.*

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Editoral Notes and Clippings.

The series of three Photos of Belted Kingfishers by R. H. Beebe appearing in current number of American Ornithology are works of art considering the difficulties attending this work. The illustrations in this Number are fine and must be seen to be appreciated.

The interesting article on " Birds of the Galapagos Islands " by R. H. Beck, in the current number of the " CONDOR " is worthy of the attention of every Ornithologist and Oologist. The fine half-tones from photos taken on the Islands add greatly to its value.

Mr. Silloway also contributes an instructive article on the breeding of Montana birds including Townsend's Warbler and Ruby-crown Kinglet.

There has lately passed through my hands an unusual set of Olive-backed Thrush. It was taken by Mr. W. A. Davidson in Wayne Co. Mich., June 22d, 1890.

Nest six feet from ground in a bush, built of leaves, twigs, fine rootlets and strips of Cedar bark.

Sets of this bird from Michigan are very rare and this is an exceptionally fine set; very large measuring 1.00 x .69, 1.05 x .72 and 1.02 x 72, .99x.72 and beautifully marked with shades of light red, brown and lavender so profusely that the set looks like an undersized set of Sennett's Thrasher. Unfortunately one egg was slightly damaged in preparing the set but, both as to locality and beauty, it is unique in my experience.

ED.

The Editor has just inspected two fine sets of 5 eggs each, Mexican Cormorant, taken by F. B. Armstrong, near Brownsville, Texas, on the 16th of Oct., 1903. Incubation fresh.

Hows that for a breeding date?

We note with regret the serious damage to the collection of Mr. F. T. Noble of Augusta, Me., during the fire on the morning of Jan. 7th.

The Collecting Habit.

Occasionally, we hear some unappreciative parents express regret, when their children begin to develop the tendency to collect.

Some will object to the small expense involved, or to the time which may be taken up in the collecting, or to the space occupied in the house by the collection.

Now, as an experienced parent, teacher and pastor, I want to enter my protest against such opposition to collecting. Young minds must become acquainted with the world in which they live, and especially with the works of nature, which are the works of God in nature.

And every child's mind will be better and happier if he can learn the facts of the world in ways which afford delight while learning. It is a secret known to all careful thinkers in child study, that whatever enters into the young mind with delight, makes a strong and enduring impression. This is the great secret of the Kindergarten.

Again, a second great secret, in developing a child's mind, is to remember his great desire to handle the things with which he is so delighted, and to possess them, as his own.

Therefore, when a child is old enough, let him begin to collect something, especially the works of nature, such as shells minerals, etc. And thus you will fix his mind in the things which delight him, and which arouse in him an active enthusiasm, which will go far towards sustaining his interest in his studies, in later years, when the more artificial methods of study and teaching must be taken up, in school.

As to expense, a habit of collecting

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will tend to make achild need fewer toys, because his collection takes the place of toys, to a large extent.

A child educated without any expense, is likely to have a very cheap education, one which dwarfs his mind, rather than devolops his many-sided manhood.

As to the space taken up by a little collection, almost any house can afford to spare the child a few shelves, or a home-made box, or cabinet. And it will help to train and systematize the child's mind, to feel that he has a place of his own, where he can keep his treasures, and for the good order of which he is responsible.

As to the time occupied in making collections, that can be regulated by the amount of time at the child's disposal. Naturally, his collecting time will come out of his play-time, and so will not be any time lost from study. But in fact, collecting is one good method of study, better because it pleases and entertains.

A small collection made by children, will often solve the hard problem of what to do with your children on a rainy day. And, even at other times, the time spent with the collection keeps the child out of mischief.

In every way, I believe in the habit of collecting, kept, of course, within reasonable bounds, as to expenditure of time and money. It helps to train the mind in many ways.

I have seen the practical good of collecting, in my own family, and in my own life. And so I would encourage the young folks to collect; and also the older folks, who will find, in collecting, a restful change, and an antidote for "the blues," and a help to him who would "look through nature, up to nature's God."

E. C. MITCHELL.

St. Paul, Minn.

Nest and Eggs of the Swainson's Warbler

DR. M. T. CLECKLEY.

(*Helinaia swainsonii*).—June 1st and 8th were 'red-letter' days for me from an oölogical standpoint. Jumping on my wheel and riding two or three miles from this city, I came to a swamp I had never visited before; and while looking carefully among the thick cane-brake, I heard *chips* of a warbler. Birds were singing and darting all around, and the 'swamp-flies' were making my life miserable, when I perceived a bunch of cane-leaves near the top of a cane-bush seven feet above the ground. On going closer, I saw a warbler on the nest, which immediately flushed and feigned lameness, rolling and chirping on the ground among the cane. I at once recognized the bird as Swainson's Warbler, and on peering into the nest saw, to my great delight, three white, unmarked eggs of a slightly pinkish hue and rather globular in shape. The nest was a typical warbler's, being made of leaves of the elm, cane in layers, pine needles, and lined with fine rootlets and grasses. I at once packed the eggs with the enthusiam of having found such a rare nest—the rarest eggs I have ever found in this locality. Having read that this specie of warbler nests in small colonies, I continued in the cane, stooping often to search the tops of the cane. I had not gone ten feet, when I came to another nest with a warbler on it, in a canebush situated five feet above the ground. The bird dropped and fluttered off. The nest was more compactly built and contained three fresh eggs, somewhat smaller than the eggs of the other set. Proceeding near the end of the cane-brake, I saw a warbler dart out from a clump of cane, and on investigating. I saw a neat little Hooded Warbler's (*Wilsonia mitrata*) nest with three creamy white eggs marked

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with specks and spots of chestnut, and lilac gray wreaths. I had found one uncompleted Swainson's Warbler's nest, and on visiting the same swamp again in a week, I located two more sets of three eggs each of this warbler —the rarest of southern warblers.

Augusta, Ga.

Eggs of the Dwarf Screech Owl.

As I have now in my possession what is undoubtedly an egg of this rare bird, I have jotted down a description and full notes since the egg has never been described.

On the 25th of April 1901, Mr. F. O. Nelson removed a small owl which he thought was the Pygmy Owl from a cavity in a Cottonwood Stump 3 miles South of Meridian, Ada Co , Idaho.

There were four eggs in the nest, incubation well begun, but all but one were destroyed before reaching me. This egg while very nearly small enough for the Pygmy Owl, is so entirely diffcrent in shell texture and shape that I would unhesitatingly pronounce it an egg of the Dwarf Screech Owl. The shell texture and color is like the the Screech Owl types and in no way resembles the creamy, granulated, or roughened shell of the Pygmy and Elf Owls. The shape is more oval than the eggs of the Pygmy Owls, also. It measures 1.26 x 1.04, The smallest Screech owls egg I have, an egg of the Texan bird, measures 1.36 x 1.21 and they run from that up to 1.47 x 1.25 for Kennicotts' from Alberta.

The average given for Pygmy Owl is 1.12 x .95, Mine average 1.11 x .94.

However I have two eggs of the Flammulated Screech Owl, one from Mexico, measuring 1.24 x 1.08 and one from tha Nevada line measursng 1.23 x 1.04.

Considering the resemblence in measure, shape and color with the fact that Meridian is only 110 miles straight west of the type locality, (Ketchum, Blaine Co., Idaho), of the Dwarf Screech Owl I think there is little room for question that Mr. Nelson had the first authentic set of this bird taken in the type locality and I much regret that skin and balance of set were not preserved.

A Misleading Appellation.

NORMAN O. FOERSTER.

It would be difficult to trace back to the originator of the name "Preacher" for the Red-eyed Vireo. Since Somebody, almost every writer on the Red-eye has used that hackneyed term. We are all fanciful at times, and say and write things we would not even think of at other times. Certain it is that the author of this appellation must have been in a fanciful or playfully cogitative mood when he wrote his biography of the Red-eye. Take an ordinary person, who knows almost none of the birds along some country-road and when you come to the Red-eye's "pulpit" and hear "the clear, high tones of his rich voice" which are "a constant repetition of a few triplets, but so ingeniously arranged as not to become wearisome," ask him what the notes suggest. I have tried it often, but never yet received an answer that pronounced it declamatory or harangueful. On many occassions where I suggested "Preacher" the idea was ridiculed.

No doubt its "short sentences, its tiresome upward inflections, its everlasting repetitionsness, and its sharp, querulous tone" suggest certain preachers; but when these notes were likened to preaching no consideration was taken of the fact that the principal idea conveyed was a declamatory, style, sharp reiterations, pauses, and climaxes. As Torrey says, "whoever dubbed

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this vireo the 'preacher' could have had no very exalted opinion of the clergy."

Mr. Cheney, as I have quoted above, says the notes are ingeniously arranged and not tiresome but Torrey calls them tiresome. It is natural that we should disagree in an appreciation of the song, but we ought not to be undecided on such a point as sharpness, "Its sharp, querulous note," says Torrey; but it is *not* sharp. If it were it might contain more of the elements that go to make up the preacher's style. Indeed the notes are mellow: heard from a distance they seem to voice the summer breeze itself, uncertain and tremulous, but never sharp; heard near by they are, I think, almost as mellow as the Rose-breasted Grosbeak's. Now watch "this lively, tireless singer, running rapidly after insects in the tops of forest trees, singing as he goes;" the notes are uttered with scarcely any effort, seeming to flow out and express in voice the contentedness what a bird-face cannot reflect. Certainly they are not sharp.

All in all, I think it would be wise to consider the term "preacher" rather as a poor pun than as a name given with any design at appropriateness. Due reverence to the ornithologists who use the miserable figure, but the unnaturalness of the term we need not therefore ensconce.

Evening Grosbeak in Central Iowa.

BY JAY G. SIGMUND.

Christmas day, while eating dinner at a neighbors, I was called to the door to see a flock of curious birds which were feeding on cedar berries in the trees in the yard. I saw at once that they were Evening Grosbeaks, (*Coccothraustes vespertina*) and was somewhat surprised as they were the first of this species I have ever seen in this locality, although a friend of mine secured a specimen here two years ago.

There were about thirty birds in the flock, and they paid no attention to me but kept on eating their Christmas dinner in the storm, chirping cheerily the meanwhile.

As I desired to obtain a specimen for mounting, I had a gun brought me and fired into the flock killing one. The rest of the flock took flight, and I picked up the specimen I had shot but was much disapointed to find that it was too badly shot to be of any value as a mounted specimen. The bird shot was an adult female.

I afterward learned that this flock of Grosbeaks were in the habit of coming regularly to this place to feed having been seen several times previously, this winter.

Book Review.

Either the Publisher or Manager of the Oologist will furnish any book at the Publishers price.

"Color Key to North American Birds," By F. M. Chapman illustrated by Chester A, Reed. This work shows 800 birds in colors from life and meets a long felt want. Price, $2.50

Publications Received.

American Ornithology, Vol. IV, No. 1.

Condor, Vol VI, No. 1.

Journal of the Maine Ornithological Society, Vol. VI, No. 1.

Amateur Naturalist, Binghamton, N. Y., Vol. I. No. 1.

American Ornithology, Vol. IV, No. 2.

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January OOLOGIST was delayed two weeks by a series of accidents. We are trying to do better this month. January issue was mailed on the 29th. We hope to mail this issue on February 20th.

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Vol. XXI. No. 3. ALBION, N. Y., MARCH, 1904. WHOLE No. 200

WANTS, FOR SALES AND EXCHANGES,

Brief Special announcements, "Wants," "Exchanges," "For Sales," inserted in this department for 25 cents per 25 words. Notices over 25 words charged at the rate of 1-2 cent for each additional word. No notice inserted for less than 25 cents. Terms, cash with order.
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205 " " " " Aug., 1904
207 " " " " Oct., 1904
209 " " " " Dec., 1904
257 " " " " Dec., 1908

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THE OÖLOGIST.

VOL. XXI. No. 3. ALBION, N. Y., MARCH, 1904. WHOLE No. 200

THE OÖLOGIST.

A Monthly Publication Devoted to

OÖLOGY, ORNITHOLOGY AND TAXIDERMY.

FRANK H. LATTIN, Publisher,
ALBION, N. Y.

ERNEST H. SHORT, Editor and Manager.

Correspondence and items of interest to the student of Birds, their Nests and Eggs, solicited from all.

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Breeding of The Mississippi Kite.

I have lately had the pleasure of inspecting what I believe to be the largest series of eggs of the Mississippi Kite ever recorded as taken by one collector in the same locality and all in one month.

Of 15 sets, fourteen were taken by G. W. Stevens, between June 5th and 20th, 1903. Thirteen sets in Woods County, Oklahoma, on the Salt Fork of the Arkansas River and its tributaries, and one set in Pawnee County, Oklahoma, near the Arkansas River. The other taken by J. M. Rutledge is also from Woods County.

No. 1—Two eggs taken June 5th from a white elm tree, one and one-half miles northwest of Alva, Woods County. Nest twelve feet from the ground, composed of sticks, lined with a few fresh sumac leaves. Incubation fresh. Size of eggs, 1.68x1.38 inches and 1.63x1.32. Birds at nest.

No. 2.—One egg taken June 10th from the horizontal branch of an elm tree, one and one-half miles northwest of Alva. Nest twenty-two feet from ground, composed of a few sticks, lined with fresh willow twigs with the catkinon. As this set was found in same locality as No. 1 and the egg was fresh, it may have been a second set by the same pair of birds. Egg small 1.58x1.27 inches.

No. 3.—One egg taken June 7th from forks of cottonwood tree, eight miles northwest of Alva. Nest twenty-five feet from ground, composed of sticks, with a thin lining of green cottonwood and sumac leaves. Incubation fresh. Birds at nest. Egg measures 1.57x1.27.

No. 4.—One egg taken June 7th from fork of white elm, two miles north of Alva. Nest twenty feet from ground, composed of sticks, lined with a few fresh sumac leaves. Birds at nest.

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Incubation well begun. Size of egg 1.64x1.30.

No. 5.—Two eggs taken June 10th from horizontal limb of white elm, six miles southeast of Heman, Woods County. Nest twenty feet from ground, composed of coarse sticks, quite flat, a spare lining of green elm leaves. Birds at nest. Incubation half over. Size of eggs 1.67x1.30 and 1.70x1.33.

No. 6.—One egg taken June 10th from horizontal limb of elm, six miles southeast of Heman. Nest fifteen feet from the ground, built like that of No. 5. Birds at nest. Incubation begun. Size of egg 1.57x1.31.

No. 7.—Two eggs taken June 10th from the top fork of cottonwood tree, six miles southeast of Heman. Nest thirty-five feet from the ground, built of sticks, laid on top of some old nest and lined with fresh cottonwood leaves and seed pods. Birds at nest. Incubation advanced. Size of eggs 1.50x1.26 and 1.68x1.38, an odd looking set, as one egg appears one-half larger than the other.

No. 8.—Two eggs taken June 10th from fork of cottonwood tree, six miles southeast of Heman. Nest thirty feet from the ground, built of sticks, lined with green cottonwood leaves. Birds at nest. Incubation begun. Size of eggs 1.54x1.31 and 1.72x1.29. This last egg is a freak, as it is positively pyriform in shape, instead of the rounded oval, typical of these eggs.

No. 9.—One egg taken June 10th from the fork of an elm tree, eight miles southeast of Heman. Nest twenty feet from the ground, composed of sticks, lined with cottonwood seed pods, which were ripe and bursting. Birds at nest. Incubation fresh. Size 1.59x1.27.

No. 10.—Two eggs taken June 10th from an elm tree, eight miles southeast of Heman. Nest eighteen feet from the ground, made of sticks, lined with fresh leaves of elm and sumac. Birds at nest. Incubation begun. Size 1.59x1.30, 1.55x1.29. The eggs in this set are nicely matched as to size and shape.

No. 11.—One egg taken June 12th from upper forks of "Black-Jack" oak, two miles northwest of Walthall, Woods County. Nest fifteen feet from the ground, composed of sticks, lined with a few leaves from same tree, nearly fresh. Incubation fresh. Size 1.55x1.32.

No. 12.—One egg taken June 13th from "Black-Jack" oak, two miles north of Walthall. Nest nineteen feet from the ground, composed of coarse sticks and lined with fresh sumac leaves. Incubation begun. Size 1.73x1.41. *Very large.* Looks much like a rounded egg of Marsh Hawk.

No. 13.—One egg taken June 20th from fork of large limb of "Black-Jack" oak, at Pawnee, Pawnee County, Oklahoma. Nest twenty-five feet up a very flat structure of a few twigs, lined with small twigs with green leaves on. Incubation begun. Size of egg 1.62x1.34. This egg was very heavily stained and quite smooth from incubation. I think incubation must have been further advanced than Mr. Stevens' notes would indicate. Many of the stains on this egg would suggest markings, and I think it must have been an egg like this that gave rise to the statement in Coues key that the eggs are sometimes faintly marked. I never saw an egg of this bird that I thought was marked when deposited.

No. 14.—Two eggs taken June 10th from horizontal limb of elm, eight miles southeast of Heman, Woods County. Nest fifteen feet from the ground, composed of sticks, lined with green cottonwood leaves. Incubation advanced. Size of eggs, 1.71x1.33 and 1.68x1.41.

No. 15.—Two eggs taken by J. M. Rutledge from "Black Jack" oak, one mile northwest of Walthall, on June

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12th. Nest fifteen feet from the ground, composed of sticks, lining not specified. Size of eggs, 1.63x1.34 and 1.55x1.30. Incubation fresh. A very pretty set. One egg was checked and mended again before it was deposited by the bird. I have noted eggs of Sandhill Crane and Brown Pelican that exhibited this evidence of nature's mending. The former had been broken entirely around he center and firmly joined without leaving any ridge on shell. In the case of this egg of Mississippi Kite it was a simple radiated dent, which was healed by an extra deposit c shell, leaving a network of fine lines showing.

The average size of the twenty-two eggs is 1.59x1.32. Davie's average, (10 specimens), 1.64x1.28. Coues Key gives average as 1.65x1.35; rather too large, but giving a better idea of the rounded oval shape than Davie's size, which is too slender. In common with all normal eggs of this bird they are white, with a greenish tint, caused by the inner shell tint showing through. Hold one of these eggs up to the light and the inner shell shows as a delicate pea green. Nearly all the eggs show stains from lying on green, wilting leaves.

While Mr. Stevens does not note any green leaves in nest No. 9, nor does Mr. Rutledge speak of them in nest No. 15, still the eggs in both cases show the stains plainly, indicating that they had certainly lain on green leaves at some time. This habit of lining the nests with green leaves seems to be practically confined to this bird, among our American Avifauna. The Cuckoos sometimes use a few green leaves with their catkins when they complete their nest, but these soon dry up and I have never seen any evidence of their replacing them.

Mr. Stevens' records indicate what I have seen stated as probable by other authorities—that the Mississippi Kite constantly renews these leaves, and thus keeps fresh ones in the nest all the time. He found leaves under incubated eggs to be as fresh as those under freshly laid eggs

These records do not indicate a tendency to pick out lofty nesting sites like the White-tailed and Swallow-tailed Kites prefer. Instead of finding them in the tops of trees forty feet or more from the ground his nests only averaged twenty-one feet from the ground, and if we leave out Nos. 7 and 8 we have an average of eighteen and one-half feet for thirteen nests. Full sets are said to be two or three eggs.

There is a record, quoted by Mr. Davie, of a set of three taken by Mr. J. A. Singley in Lee County, Texas, many years ago. This will have to stand as *very rare*. I have never seen a set of three. Mr. Stevens states that one-half of all the nests he finds never contain but a single egg and that he has repeatedly allowed them to hatch out sets of one and found nests containing one young on many occasions. I think it should be *one* or *two* eggs, *rarely* three.

We would expect the largest eggs to occur in the sets of one, but the opposite proves to be the case. Only one of the single eggs approaches the sizes indicated by the pairs.

ERNEST H. SHORT.

The Black-Throated Green Warbler in Summer.

It has never been the portion of the writer to reside or to make observations within the territory wherein *Dendroica virens* is to be commonly found as a summer resident, and therefore these brief notes pertain to the Black-throated Green Warbler in summer in localities where it is not accredited with being commonly found at that season.

I have never found this Warbler's nest, nor have I diligently sought it; but the bird itself I have observed in

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summer in two localities widely remote from each other, in neither of which I had expected to find the species.

Formerly residing in the very county where the OOLOGIST is published, (Orleans County, New York,) I had known the Black-throated Green Warbler as a common migrant—one of the best known, but notwithstanding so good an authority on the birds of that section as the Rev. J. H. Langille had stated that he found it commonly in Tonawanda Swamp each summer, I was unable by explorations, either there or elsewhere to find a trace of *D. virens* at any time excepting during the migrations.

In July, 1901, I spent seven days of rest and recreation on Canandaigua Lake, southeast from Rochester, N. Y. Well, up towards the southern extremity of the lake, at Cook's Point or Linden Lodge, I found my place of sojourn and tarried there from July 9th to 15th. Leading back from the hotel, the highway climbs circuitously the rather precipitous hill and enters the woods—cool, inviting and picturesque —for now the wagon-road skirts the edge of a steep declivity and coniferous trees add denser shade to the already shadowy ravine.

Here the Black and White Warbler *Mniotilta varia* had been engaged in nesting, for twice I caught it in the act of feeding its hungry young. And here, day after day, the "*wee, wee, su, see*" so familiarly known to me as the ditty of the Black-throated Green Warbler could be heard by the most disinterested passer-by, would he but stop to listen; even though he might not be able to derive the enjoyment from these "grasshoppery" cadences that I did. The birds were often seen as well as heard. I did not find the nest, but never did I traverse that woodland road—and I traversed it often —that I did not hear this four-syllabled singer. The inference was plain enough that a pair of these birds were breeding in that woodland ravine.

But not so remarkable is it that this Warbler should be found in summer just south of the 43rd parallel, as that it should be observed in the breeding season in latitude less than 30°.

Rather late in the afternoon of June 23rd, 1902, we were returning to Vincennes by row-boat from a day's outing up the Wabash. On the right bank, and therefore in the state of Illinois, (the river being at this point the Indiana-Illinois boundary line), while yet about two miles above Vincennes, the land rose rather abruptly from the river and seemed densely wooded—with deciduous trees mostly, but with some coniferous trees occurring.

As oars were momentarily rested and the boat drifted noiselessly not far from shore, there fell upon my ears the familiar song of the Black-throated Green Warbler coming from out the trees along shore.

In this *southern* section at the summer season, I refused to believe my ears when they told me of the song of a *northern* warbler, and I demanded further evidence. I did not have long to wait. Again came the notes and again, "*wee, wee, su see,*" "*wee, wee, su, see,*" very familiar notes to me, having long known them and I generally described them in this manner. And this in southern Indiana, at a latitude corresponding almost exactly with that of Washington, D. C. in the east.

We made no landing nor further investigation as the day was wearing to its close, nor was I able again that season to visit that locality. Not until now has this unusual occurrence been reported, and I believe this is the first record for the occurrence of this species in mid-summer from the state of Indiana. I understand that Mr. Charles Dury, of Cincinnati, O., has found this Warbler in that vicinity in the latter part of July, 1879.

CORNELIUS F. POSSON,
Vincennes, Ind.

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Among The Great Blue Herons.

(ARDEA HERODIAS.)

As per agreement I went down to Salem, N. J., on the 13th of May, 1899, to visit a Heron colony. A friend met me in the city, and after enjoying the many points of interest and being refreshed by a "soda and cream" we drove six miles in the country for the night.

After partaking of an early breakfast next morning my friend and I drove over to a neighbor's and another friend joined us. A drive of fifteen miles brought us to a roadway leading into a woods, and after proceeding a mile farther we fastened our horse near the edge of a swamp.

A tramp of one quarter of a mile through bushes, briars and trickey sloughs brought us to the colony. My friend, Mr. Crispen, who was my host on this trip, had been there two weeks previously and secured about fifty eggs, but owing to a great many being heavily incubated he could only save thirty. It was anticipated that we would be in good time for the second laying, and the first set of three taken, which were fresh, was encouraging.

The trees were all within a stone's throw of each other and it was only a few minutes before a set of four fresh eggs were on the ground. Mr. Crispen, who did the climbing, went up and down the trees like a monkey. He took the eggs faster than I could blow them. We found sets of three, four and five about evenly divided, and after going up fifteen trees had sixty eggs. There were more nests, but we did not want to be classed as "egg hogs" so left the balance to breed.

Two sets of Flickers of seven eggs each found their way into our collecting boxes. The eggs of the Great Blue Heron are plain, greenish-blue, varying from elliptical to oval in shape, three to six, (rarely the later) in number. Average sixe 2.50x1.50.

The nests were built on the tip tops of pine trees, from forty to sixty feet ftom the ground. They were made of coarse sticks on the first layer, finer on the second and lined with a few pine needles.

As a climber Mr. Crispen beats anything I ever saw. He went up seventy-five feet to an Ospreys nest on our way to the Heron colony, and finding it empty, jumped into it, and while his legs hung over the side, sang three cheers for the red, white and blue. When he climbed the first Heron tree he put the eggs in his coat pocket, got into the nest and stood erect, while the breeze swayed the tree back and forth, making a survey of the surrounding country.

The day was an ideal one for such a trip, the air being cool and pleasant, while the sun shone out sufficiently to soften the breeze that constantly blew from the Jersey shore.

Birds could be seen on every side, while we drove leisurely along each bird as it came in view was called by name and its nesting habits discussed.

It was nearly dark when we reached home, so, after a hearty supper, we finished blowing the eggs and went to bed tired out.

Next morning Mr. Crispen drove into Salem where I took the steamer for Wilmington.

E. J. DARLINGTON.

QUESTION COLUMN.

G. M. S., Mankato, Minn.

No. 1. After selling three eggs from your six Hawks' eggs you could not call the three left a set.

Nesting of Cooper's Hawk.

(333 Accipiter cooperi.)

April 6, 1902, I found a nest of Cooper's Hawk built in a yellow birch tree 30 feet up, and nearly completed.

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I watched it carefully and May 4th I visited the nest to collect the eggs, but there was no eggs there. I hunted around and found the female setting on a nest containing four eggs. The nest was built in a maple forty feet up and about forty rods from the first nest found, I collected the eggs. May 10th, I again visited the first nest and collected one egg laid by the same bird. Were my eggs a set of five, or 1-4 and 1-1?

Cooper's Hawk, is one of our most common breeders in this locality, of any of this family of birds.

Nests in April, May and June.

GUY H. BRIGGS,
Livermore, Maine.

Answer. If you took the one egg within 2 or 3 days of May 10th, it was probably the balance of your set of *really* 5 eggs. If a week or ten days later your bird might have been beginning a new set in first nest.

ED.

Was It An Escape?

In March, 1903, about three o'clock the afternoon of the 27th, I left my home for the purpose of cutting wood. But upon nearing the woods I noticed in a grove of poplar trees, a Grouse eating pople buds and as the house was near I returned for my gun; and upon returning to the grove, found the Grouse still there; and I at once began to wallow through the snow, which was from two to two and one-half feet deep.

Upon getting in range, as I drew my gun to fire, I heard a swooping noise, and the Grouse plunged into the snow at my feet. A large hawk barely missed the bird. I at once began to investigate the hole which the Grouse made and found him lying very quiet sixteen or eighteen inches below the surface of the snow. I took it up but it made no effort to get away. I took it home and released it but still it made no effort to get away. And its eyes shone like two black beads. Do birds when in danger seek protection from man?

W. W. RADLEY, Waupaca, Wis.

I do not think your bird was seeking protection from you though he undoubtedly realized your immediate presence.

In an exposed situation like you describe the Ruffed Grouse would be aware of your movements some time before you reached the position you did and would have taken flight or flattened himself closely on the upper side of a limb for concealment and protection. Your large Hawk was the main concern of Mr. Grouse as neither of his methods usually available in attempting to escape man would be of any use against a hungry hawk in the winter.

In his terror of the Buzzard he dropped you out of the problem and sought refuge under the snow. I have seen them do this to avoid hunters with dogs who had them completely surrounded and, after burrowing some distance they will thrust just enough of their head up to watch proceedings. In such cases their eyes always take that set, glossy appearance.

Your bird was probably too badly terrorized as well as surprised to regain at once its natural wildness, but I don't think it would prove docile for any very considerable time.

ED.

Caution.

We are informed on good authority that certain parties are offering sets of American Three-toed Wood-pecker, Gt. Northern Shrike, Passenger Pigeon, and Lincoln's Sparrow from Waterdown, Ont., Can.

As two of these birds do not breed there at all and the other two very doubtfully, we would caution all collectors to restrain their anxiety to fill these gaps in their collections until they have these sets properly identified.

The Editor has been *taken in* by some clever work in fixing up sets dur-

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ing the past season and hopes to locate the party before long.

Editorial Notes.

Dr. R. L. Jessee, S.S.S., Stansell and Isaac E. Hess of Philo, Ill., are considering the formation of an Ornithological and Oological society of the state of Illinois.

They would like the address of every person in the state who is interested along these lines.

A True Albino and a Strange Freak.

An Albino Meadowlark.

Plumage: Above white; underparts and throat white with yellowish shade; feet white; bill white; iris of eye pink.

A Freak Crow.

Natural in every respect except the bill. The upper mandible being 1¼ inches and the lower mandible 3 in. Both birds were shot in Oakland county, Mich.

OLIVER GARTNER,
Detroit, Mich.

This last must have been the result of some accident and would certainly interfere with the birds feeding. Has anyone an explanation?

ED.

Notice.

February OOLOGIST was mailed on February 23d.

All subscribers have the Editor's sympathy when they try to straighten out the botch on page 22, February issue, and we will all hope that friend Eddy will do better in making up future issues.

Publications Received.

Notes from Thicket and Swamp, Guelph Daily Herald, Feb. 5, '04.

Bulletin of Michigan Ornithological Club. Vol IV., No. 4.

Nature Study, London. Vol. XIII, No. I.

Woman's Home Companion, Springfield, Mass., (Nature Study Class), Vol. XXXI, No. 2.

Notes from Thicket and Swamp, Guelph Daily Herald, Feb. 19, 1904.

Book Review.

Where did Life Begin? G. H. Scribner, (new edition). Chas. Scribner's Sons, New York, $1.20 net. An interesting statement of the most probable beginning and spread of life from the lower forms up. Nicely printed and attractively bound in cloth, *blue* and *gilt*.

Boll Weevils and Birds, by Prof. H. P. Attwater, Houston, Tex. A comprehensive pamphlet on the value of the insect eating birds in the great fight between the cotton growers of the southwest and the cotton boll weevil, and a plea for their better protection. Published by So. Pac. R. R., Houston, Tex.

What an old Patron says of the Oologist.

Pipestone, Minn., Jan. 7, 1904.

Dear Sirs:—You will find enclosed $1.00 for 5 years subscription to the OOLOGIST. "It would be putting it mild to say I am more than pleased to think of having the OOLOGIST a regular visitor at my home again. When you stopped its publication it seemed that all interest along the egg and bird lines and the making of collections along other scientific lines were lost. The exchange columns kept us within touch of all other Oologists; and filled a sphere that no other pubpublication could fill."

A. D. BROWN,
Taxidermist.

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Our Winter Visitors.

BY A. B. KLUGH.

[Read before the Michigan Ornithological Club Meeting of Dec. 5, 1903, held at the Detroit Museum of Art.]

To one whose specialty is *Fringillidæ* the winter is far from an uninteresting season, as it is then that we may look for most of the rarest birds of this family. The present winter has been marked by the early appearance of, and abundance of, certain species.

The first to arrive were, as usual, the Tree Sparrows. They appeared on October 21, for a month were very common, and since have been noted in fair numbers. At first they were to be found in the thickets, but the supply of food there must have become exhausted, as latterly they have frequented the weedy fields, feeding on the seeds of catnip, lamb's quarters and ragweed and the fruits of ragweed and blueweed.

On October 28 the Redpolls arrived, and have been common up to the present (January 16). Several large flocks, varying from fifty to one hundred and fifty, have been noted, but they have been seen mostly in groups of from two to five flying overhead. As far as my observations extend they have partaken of the same fare as the Tree Sparrows. I have noted mixed flocks composed of Redpolls, Tree Sparrows and Juncos, and in such cases when feeding two or three Redpolls would be perched on a weed-stem picking off the seeds, while some more Redpolls and some Tree Sparrows and Juncos would pick up the seeds which they shook off. The average length for *Acan thie linaria* is given as 5.45 inches and the minimum as 5.5. Of twenty-two specimens which I have taken only one reaches the minimum length, one is only 4.6 inches and the average 5.08 inches.

On November 5 came the Pine Grosbeaks. I first saw them in a thicket along the river Speed, feeding on the seeds of the nightshade (*S. dulcamara*) and on the ground on smartweed (*P. hydropiper*. While on the ground they would hop rapidly after, catch and eat insects. From the above date until December 8 these birds were very common, fresh flocks constantly arriving from the north.

Their chief articles of diet were the two seeds above mentioned, but I also noted them breaking open the oval galls on the willow (*S. discolor*) and eating the larvas within and feeding on the fruits of ragweed and blueweed and the buds of the spruce. Of the weeds on cultivated fields ragweed was their favorite. They would perch on a stalk of this plant, which would bend down with their weight when they would stand upon tha prostrate stem and pick off the fruits.

The proportion of males in the bright carmine plumage has been about one in twenty, while that of immature males with head and rump yellowish, flushed in a varying degree with carmine has been about three in twenty. The proportion of old males is hard to estimate. My largest specimen, an old male, measures 9.2 inches, my smallest, a very dull immature male, eight inches, the average is 8.5 inches.

Snowflakes appeared on November 22 and have been seen frequently, sometimes in flocks of about two hundred since.

On December 26 I noted an American Goshawk and on January 11 four American Goldeneyes and four American Mergansers, two males and two females of each species.

What the remainder of the winter brings forth in the way of bird records I will communicate at a later date.

Guelph, Ontario.

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OF THE
Michigan Ornithological Club.

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Jan.'04nt. Pasadena, Cal.

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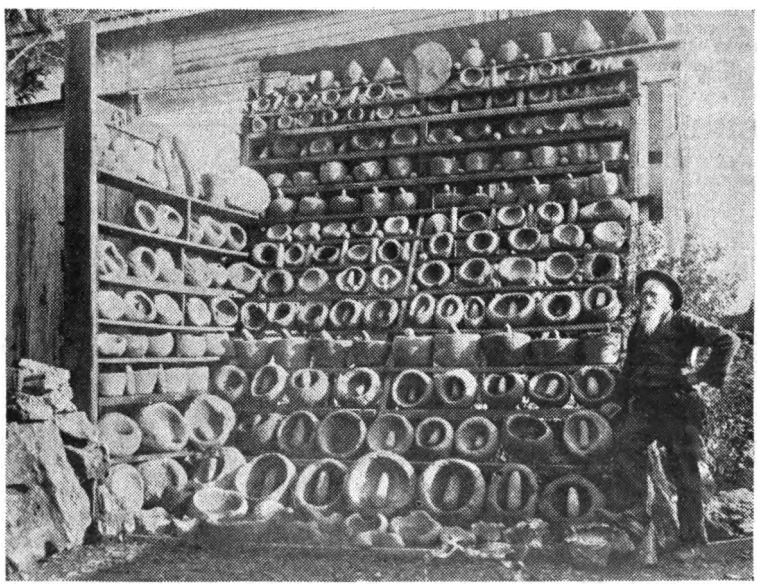
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VOL. XXI. NO. 4. ALBION, N. Y., APRIL, 1904. WHOLE NO. 201

THE OÖLOGIST.

A Monthly Publication Devoted to

OÖLOGY, ORNITHOLOGY AND TAXIDERMY.

FRANK H. LATTIN, Publisher,
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ERNEST H. SHORT, Editor and Manager.

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The Discovery of the First Known Nest of Kirtland's Warbler.

Probably few finds in recent years have attracted more interest on the part of the American oologists than the discovery of the breeding area of Kirtland's Warbler in Michigan by Norman A. Wood, taxidermist to the U. of M. Museum.

The bulletin of the Michigan Ornithological Club for March appears as a "Special Kirtland issue" and it is here that Mr. Wood tells for the first time of his excellent success with this bird which has so long puzzled oologists. Speaking of American warblers



NORMAN A. WOOD.
Ann Arbor, Mich.
Discoverer of First Anthentic Nesting of Kirtland's Warbler.

in the Auk for October, 1898, Frank M. Chapman says: "With the exception of several Mexican species just reach-

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ing our border we can now write, rare nest and eggs unknown only of Kirtland's Warbler." At this time but seventy-five specimens were known to science—55 from the Bahamas, 20 from the United States. Since then a few more have been taken, but counting Mr. Wood's records, we now have a total of 31 from Michigan alone.

Mr. Wood struck a small colony and discovered two nests one of which contained one egg. Through the courtesies of the Editor of the Bulletin, we are able to present to readers of the Oologist a halftone of Mr. Wood and make a few quotations from his article—"Discovery of the Breeding Area of Kirtland's Warbler."

"Early in June, 1903, the Museum assistant, Mr. E. H. Frothingham, with a friend, Mr. T. G. Gale, went to Oscoda Caunty Michigan, to fish the Au Sable river. On one of their short trips Mr. Frothingham, who is an experienced field ornithologist, heard a bird song which he did not recognize. Mr. Gale shot the bird. The skin was preserved and was found on their return to be a male *Dendroica kirtlandi.* When I saw this skin of Kirtland's Warbler, taken in northern Michigan, I concluded there was its summer home, and there it would be found breeding. At 4:45, on the evening of June 29th, I boarded the Toledo, Ann Arbor and Northern R. R. train, bound for Roscommon, in the extreme north of that county. I arrived at this old lumber town at 6 a. m. June 30th, after a tedious night's travel, due to two changes of cars, After some inquiry I found that my objective point was thirty-five miles to the northeast, and that the best way to reach this point was by the river. The South branch, one of the main feeders of the Au Sable, runs near the town. At 7 a. m. I was on board a row boat on a sixty mile run down the river.

"It may be imagined with what delight I beheld the first nest of this rare bird ever seen, and with what eagerness I dropped to my knees beside it to make a closer examination of its contents. There were two young birds' perhaps ten days old, and a perfect egg; this proved to be the only egg found.

"This egg was a delicate pinkish-white, (since the contents were removed it has faded to a dull white,) thinly sprinkled with shades of brown spots forming a sort of wreath at the large end. This egg is .72 x .56 inches or 18 by 14 mm., and containe no embryo. The nest was built in a depression in the ground, at the foot of a jack pine about five feet tall, and was only five feet from the road. It was partly covered with low blueberries and sweet- fern plants. The nest is two inches inside diameter and the same in depth, very neat and compact, and is composed of strips of soft bark and some vegetable fiber, thickly lined with fine dead grass and pine needles. A few hairs from horses mane or tail complete the lining.

"As I sat near the nest the female came and alighted on the branch of the jack pine just back of the nest. She was not at all shy. Once she came with a worm in her mouth, but she would not feed the young while I was so near. The male also came, but not so close. Both birds were very restless aud uneasy—only a few seconds in a place— which made it very difficult to take photographs of them.

"I made Fraser's on the North brrnch, Crawford county, my headquarters for a few days that I might be near this colony of Kirtlands. I saw (July 9th) a third female and took a male, but I wished to locate all the nests I could, so I did not shoot the females. I made a second trip to the nest and found both parents feeding the young. After watching them a

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short time I tried to locate the boundary of this colony on the east. A short distance east of the nest I heard another male singing and tried to locate his nest, but failed to do so. In fact the jack pine is so thick, the ground so covered with old logs, tree tops and vegetation, that it was only by the closest kind of work I could hope to find them, and even then only by watching the male and flushing the female from the nest."

Mr. Wood also describes at length the song of the bird, his trip down the rivers, nature of the country, flora etc making the most complete life history of the bird yet written. In conclusion he says:

"I still consider this bird as rare, and only to be found breeding in small colonies, and only in the jack pine plains in favorable localities. All that I found were on the first and second terraces north of the Au Sable river. One pair was only one-fourth mile from the river, and the farthest two miles. All of these birds were near some road that was used by teams or stock, and they seem to prefer such places for nesting and breeding. They sing constantly in June and July by the roadside, so they may be easily found by driving through the plains at this time. I did not find a bird over one-fourth mile from a road, or under conditions other than those described. This history of the Kirtland's warbler is in the main copied from my field notes, written with the birds before me."

NORMAN A. WOOD.

In this same issue of the Bulletin is also a valuable article by Chas. C. Adams on the "Migration of Kirtland's Warbler" which is illustrated by maps.

Mr. Wood has the congratulations of the whole of the oological fraternity and the Bulletin is to be congratulated upon producing the articles and halftones in so neat a manner.—ED.

The Cal. Vulture in Douglas Co., Oregon.

June 1, 1903, I saw two Cal. Vultures. They were at a great height and I could not have identified them if I had not often seen them in Los Angeles County, Cal. I saw several of the great Vultures during the month of June. The birds that I saw were about thirty miles from the coast. Is it possible that there is a colony on the coast of Southern Oregon? We know that they straggled to the Columbia at an early day. Would like to hear through Oologist from some California Ornithologist in regard to them.

GEORGE D. PECK,
Salem, Oregon.

Is the observing of thirty-three different species of birds in one day, not a good record for month of February? Can any of your readers north of 38 degrees report a similar record? On February 28th this year, I observed the following: 1, Red-bellied Woodpecker; 2, Blue Jay; 3, Slate-colored Junce; 4, American Robin; 5, Bluebird; 6, Carolina Chickadee; 7, Cardinal; 8, Song Sparrow; 9, Tree Sparrow; 10, Downy Woodpecker; 11, Mourning Dove; 12, Meadow-lark; 13, American Crow; 14, Tufted Titmouse; 15, Cedar Waxwing; 16, Killdeer; 17, Towhee; 18, Fox Sparrow; 19, Bronzed Grackle; 20, Canada Goose; 21, Carolina Wren; 22, Phoebe; 23 Brown Creeper; 24, Red-winged Blackbird; 25, Hairy Woodpecker; 26, Red-tailed Hawk; 27, Prairie Horned Lark; 28, Cooper's Hawk; 29, White-breasted Nuthatch; 30, Purple Finch; 31, White-crowned Sparrow; 32, Mallard; 33, Flicker.

CORNELIUS F. POSSON,
Vincennes, Ind.

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Photographed by H. C. Higgins, Cincinnatus, N. Y. June 6, 1902.

NEST AND EGGS OF BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER.

More about the Eggs of Black-throated Blue Warbler.

The set of eggs of the Black-throated Blue Warbler sent you by Mr. Stone for comparison with the set taken by himself, (see Oologist for February, 1904; pp. 22.) was one of my own collecting and it may be of interest to your readers to have other comparisons made. My first find of this Warbler was at Cincinnatus, N. Y. on June 11, 1895. At the time I was in an open tract in a piece of woods on a side hill grown up to bushes, ferns and small saplings with here and there a fallen log and brush pile, when I was attracted by the alarm notes of this Warbler and a short search revealed the nest, which was built on a fallen limb resting in some low beech saplings. It was placed 18 inches above the ground and was composed of rotten bits of wood, vine bark and flowers from weeds and partially covered with cocoons. The lining was small black roots and hair. The female was shot to make sure of identity.

All of the several nests I have examined in this locality were almost an exact counterpart of this nest and almost invariably rested upon fallen dead limbs but concealed by weeds or bushes. I think the nest which was sent you by Mr. Stone was rather more compact than when found from the fact that it had been tightly wound with thread. There were four eggs in the above described nest. One unfortunatly was broken. The other three, which were slightly incubated, measured .63 x .52, .66 x .53, .62 x .50 which, you will note, were considerably smaller than the set which I sent to Mr. Stone. They also are unlike any of the other eggs which I have examined. There were no brown markings but the eggs are covered

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with small blotches of pale lilac well scattered over the entire egg.

My next find was the set sent you by Mr. Stone. It was taken on June 5, 1899 and the bird too well seen for any mistake to have occurred. The following day I discovered a nest containing three young birds and one egg. On June 11, 1901 I examined a nest of badly incubated eggs and upon my next visit to the nest found the young hatched My next find occurred on June 6, 1902 and I am sending you a photograph of the nest. (See cut page 54.) It was in an open place in the woods among weeds which completely concealed it from view and was placed one foot up in one of the weeds but you will notice in the photograph that it rests upon a fallen branch as I mentioned above. In order to photograph the nest, I was compelled to break off some of the leaves which hid it from view. The eggs in this set measured .73 x .54, .73 x .53, .72 x .53, .74 x .53—not quite as large as the eggs taken by Mr. Stone. The markings, which are entirely brown, are confined to the large end of the egg in the form of a wreath. On June 9, 1903, I discovered a nest situated 22 inches up in a fork of a beech bush in woods well grown up to underbrush but the four eggs which it contained were too far incubated to take, but I remember the set as more blotched than any of the previous sets and it was by far the prettiest set I had seen.

Your speaking of typical sets of Magnolia Warbler causes me to say that I would hardly know just what to consider a typical set of this species. I have seven sets in my collection and have taken others and find them very variable in style of markings. I have those that closely resemble eggs of the Chestnut-sided Warbler, those marked in the form of a wreath and one set with the eggs so heavily blotched that the entire large end is covered and reminds one of the heavily marked eggs of the Red-shouldered Hawk.

H. C. HIGGINS,
Cincinnatus, N. Y.

Judging from my experience with some 20 sets from Maine and New Hampshire, I should call Mr. Higgins' last set nearest typical of Magnolia Warbler as the heavily blotched type has always predominated.

EDITOR.

The Connecticut Warbler.

(Geothlypis agilis).

This species of the Warbler family received its name from Alexander Wilson, one of the fathers of American ornithology, from the fact that he discovered his first specimen in the State of Connecticut, but it is only a rare summer visitor in that locality. In its general appearance and life habits it closely resembles its near relative, the Mourning Warbler, but it is a little larger in size; the wings also are longer, and more pointed; and the colors of its plumage of a duller hue. At the period of the spring migration it ranges over a wide extent of eastern North America, north to the Maritime provinces, and across southern Ontario and west into Manitoba; but it does not appear to migrate beyond the low, wooded districts of that province, certainly not beyond the foot-hills of the Rocky mountains. This species was first added to the list of the Warblers of Canada by Mr. W. E. Saunders of London, who took a specimen near that city in September, 1883, and afterwards found it tolerably common in that vicinity, and also noted it at Point Pelee. Mr. McIlwraith noted it on several occasions at Hamilton and believed it nested in Ontario; where it is probably a more common summer resident than is yet known. He says it is a widely distributed species, but is nowhere abundant, though it seems to be more common in the west than in the eastern portion of its habitat. It is of shy,

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retiring habits frequenting low, swampy places, and keeping near the ground.

In the early settlement of this province the early settlers—had they been so disposed—were more likely to acquire a knowledge of the nesting habits and life history of this as well as various other species, than is possible now; for with the clearing up, and drainage of the swampy woodlands the summer haunts and homes of many species of our wild birds have been very much changed, and some species that were formerly common in some localities, are now altogether absent, though in other localities still in a state of nature, they may be more abundant than in former years. In more recent years, since I have devoted more special attention to the song notes of our forest birds, and by this means identified them, rather than by a near approach, or the inspection of their lifeless forms, I cannot say that I have detected the presence of this wandering ranger of the low-land wood in the vicinity of Listowel, or any other locality that I have visited, but I believe that in former years I have met with it not only as a spring migrant, but also as a summer resident, and that, at least, on one occasion, I found it's nest. It is now nearly twenty years ago, when, on a day in early June, I was strolling in a tract of swampy woodland, a mile south of the town, a little bird flew up almost from my feet, and disappeared in some brush nearby; and on looking down I discovered a nest containing six eggs. This was near a large turned-up root, but quite exposed, and sunk in the moss and mould, and composed largely of fine rootlets. The eggs were of a white hue, dotted with a circle of reddish brown towards the larger end; altogether much like those of the Mourning Warbler, and from the glimpse that I got of the bird at that time I took it to be that species; but from my since acquired knowledge of the nesting habits of the latter species, I concluded that it does not nest in that manner, or position. Not knowing the rarety of these specimens I soon afterwards gave them to other parties.

The Connecticut Warbler is five and a half inches in length, and the color of the male bird in his spring plumage is, on the upper parts, of an olive-green hue; becomming ashy on the head; while the chin, throat, and breast are ashy gray, and there is a shading of olive on the sides; the lower parts being yellow. The wings and tail are also glossed with yellow, but otherwise they are unmarked. The lower mandible and the feet are of a paler color, but there are no decided markings anywhere.

Mr. E. Thompson-Seton, who has done much towards enlightening the public on the subject of the Faunal life of Canada, in relating some of his observations of bird life in Manitoba, gives an interesting account of the haunts and nesting of the Connecticut Warbler there; the substance of which is as follows:

"A few miles south of the Village of Carberry is a large Spruce bush, in the middle of which is a Tamarac swamp, where Pitcher plants grow in wild profusion, but in general it is a dark, gray waste, interspersed with tall tamarac trees, whose boughs cast little shade. The chief bird notes heard in a ramble through this primitive wilderness, were those of the Crested Flycatcher, besides these the only notable sounds were the "Beecher"-like notes oft repeated, of some Warbler. This was much like the song of the Golden-crowned Thrush, but differed in being in the same uniform pitch, from beginning to end. Guided by this sound," says Mr. Seton, "I found the bird high in the Tamaracs. It was not shy, so it was easily secured, and it

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proved to be a male Connecticut Warbler. As I went on a small bird suddenly sprang up from one of the grave-like mounds. It seemed distressed, and ran along like a Plover when alighting, but on seeing that I would not be decoyed away. it ran round me in the same attitude. Recognizing that it was the female Connecticut Warbler, I shot it, and then sought out the nest in the moss. This was entirely composed of dry grass and sunk level with the surface of the mound. The eggs, four in number, measured .75x.56 of an inch. Before being blown they were of a delicate creamy-white hue, with a few spots of lilac purple. brown and black, inclined to form a ring at the large end. This nest with the parent birds were sent to the Smithsonian Institute museum, Washington."

Dr. Coues, in giving the range of this bird, says:

"Eastern United States, not commonly observed in the spring, abundant in the fall in some localities, a shy inhabitant, of brushwood and thicket. Distribution, migration and breeding habits still imperfectly known."

—W. L. Kells, in Guelph Daily Herald. "Notes from Thicket and Swamp." Feb. 5, 1904.

Hairy Woodpecker in Illinois.

Back in 1900 (April 24th to be exact,) I was homeward bound, after spending a day with the Hawk's in Salt Fork timber. In the last row of trees bordering the woods, stood a small, dead sapling stump. Five feet from the ground I noticed a small, round hole, while freshly scattered chips lay on the ground below. "A Downy," thought I, "at least two weeks too early for a full set." Thinking it useless to chip in and ruin a future Downy home, I turned to retrace my steps. A slight rustle arrested me and as it seemed to orginate in the stump, I decided to investigate. A long twig inserted in the hole received such a thump that I could feel the force at the other end. "A Nuthatch" quoth I, and while chopping away at the entrance, I reviewed the many accounts I had read of plucky little "carolinensis" remaining at her post until pulled out. Eight inches down I came to the bottom of the cavity and was surprised to find a Hairy Woodpecker, with flashing eyes, ready to defend her four pearly treasures. She clung with pugnacious desperation when I lifted her off the eggs, and exhibited no terror whatever. During a more extended acquaintance with "villosus" covering the intervening seasons, I have found this to be a habit while incubation was taking place. While covering a complete set of eggs, (my experience tells me,) it is next to impossible to flush a female Hairy from her nest. When the young were hatched however, mama and papa "villosus" are especially active and an observer can hardly approach near enough to tap the tree before a parent Hairy appears at the entrance. How many of my readers have passed one of those likely-looking, freshly-cut cavities after giving a careless tap with the hatchet, only to be surprised upon the next visit to hear the sharp, metallic "chink" of the elder, and the chirping chorus of the hungry young Hairy Woodpeckers clamoring for food?

May not these habits of "villosus" partly explain why Lattin lists their eggs at 50c and why we so seldom find sets of 393 in the exchange lists?

ISAAC E. HESS,
Philo, Ills.

King Rail, A. O. U. No. 208.

(*Rallus elegans.*)

June 14th, 1903, I was out driving in the vicinity of Fisher, Ill., and visited

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a small swamp, hoping to add a few new sets to my collection. The swamp was a small one, being not over an acre in extent. Numerous Red-wing Blackbirds hovered overhead, chirping their continual con-ger-ee, and making the cold chills run up my back, when I suddenly started a bird, somewhat larger than a pigeon, and shortly found a nest containing seven eggs of a buffish color, sparingly spotted with rusty brown. Not knowing the bird and therefore not knowing whether the set was complete or not, decided to leave it until a later date and return, which I did the eighteenth, and finding only nine eggs, took them. The nest was composed of weeds and lined with fine grass, a flat platform like structure, about a foot in diameter, located in a clump of willows, about a foot from the ground. Later the eggs were identified by Dr. Jessee, of Philo, Ill., as those of the King Rail.

S S. S. STANSELL,
Philo, Illinois.

Editorial Notes.

So much good material along that line has accumulated that we publish this as a special Warbler Number.

Now that the breeding of the Connecticut and Kirtland's Warblers has been ferretted out and described, Bachman's Warbler occupies a unique position and we trust for anthentic data in regard to its breeding and eggs from some Collector in the Central South before long.

We regretfully announce the death of R. F. Anderson of Aylmer, West, Ontario, Canada, last June by drowning while out boating in pursuit of his hobby.

Mr. Anderson was well-known as an enthusiastic student and Collector in several branches of Natural History.

We also regret the loss of another of the best known of North American Oologists, Mr. J. B. Canfield of Bridgeport, Conn., whose accidental death by asphyxiation has just been reported to the Editor. Mr. Canfield was a careful and conscientious collector and leaves a fine collection.

Publications Received.

Am. Ornithology, Vol. IV, No. 3.
Notes from Thicket and Swamp.
Guelph Daily Herald, Feb. 26, '04. March 5, '04 and March 12, '04.
Condor, Vol. VI, No, 2.

Review.

Additional notes on the Summer Birds of Flathead Lake. P. M. Silloway. Being Bulletin No. 18 of University of Montana. Biological Series No. 6. A supplement to Biological Series, No. 1, giving notes on nesting of species not noted in No. 1, a full revised list and some fine half tones from photos.

On February 28th a friend and I went in search of Great Horned Owl's eggs. We read in "Davies Nest and Eggs," that the last of February or the first of March is the time to look for them. On entering the woods we saw an owl leave a large oak tree. I climbed up and imagine my astonishment to see three young owls, snapping their bills at me. According to this eggs should be looked for about the last of January or first of February. Is this not exceptionally early?

C. W. PRIER.

The twenty-seventh of February there was found by the section hands of the West Shore railroad, a young Red-throated Loon nearly starved to death, (it did die the next day,) in a marsh near Port Gibson, Wayne Co., New York.

H. K. Sedgwick.

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Lead Pencils. Very soft; best for eggs.. 10
Groove-billed Ani, 1-7..... 1 48
White-tailed Kite (extra fine) 1-4.....10 00
Western Horned Owl, 1-2..... 95
Swainson's Hawk, 1-4..... 80
Long Crested Jay, 1-4..... 2 00
Arizona Jay, 4-4, $1.00; 3-6..... 1 50
Cassin's Auklet, 3-1..... 30
Tufted Puffin, 2-1..... 25
California Brown Pelican, 1-3..... 60
Duck Hawk, 1-1..... 1 38
Red-bellied Hawk, 1-3..... 2 50
Columbian Sharp-tailed Grouse, 1-13..... 2 50
Bobwhite, 1-9, 45c.; 1-14, 70c.; 1-13..... 65
California Clapper Rail, 1-6..... 1 30
California Chickadee, 2-4, 90c.; 1-6..... 1 50
Vigor's Wren, 1-6..... 1 50
Palmer's Thrasher, 3-4..... 1 25
Crested Flycatcher, 1-5, 40c.; 3-6..... 50
Prothonotary Warbler, 2-5, 45c.; 2-6..... 60
American Egret, 1-3..... 75
Red-shouldered Hawk, 3-2..... 40
Great Blue Heron, 2-4..... 50
Fulvous Tree Duck, 1-20..... 6 00
Black-bellied Tree Duck, 1-8..... 4 00
Green-winged Teal, 1-8..... 2 00
Valley Partridge, 1-14..... 1 00
American Redstart, 2-3, 15c.; 5-4..... 20
Cassin's Sparrow, 1-3..... 50
Rusty Song Sparrow, 2-4..... 45
Western Flycatcher, 1-4, 25c.; 5-3..... 20
Arkansas Goldfinch, n-3..... 25
Lead-colored Bush Tit, n-5..... 1 80
Wood Pewee, n-2..... 25
Yellow-billed Cuckoo, 2-3..... 15
American Coot, 1-15..... 70
Western Red-tail, 2-4, $1; 1-1, 20c.; 3-3..... 70
Cedar Wax-wing, 2-5..... 25
Barred Owl, 1-3..... 1 00
Marsh Hawk, 1-2, 20c.; 1-3..... 30
Cooper's Hawk, 1-2, 20c.; 1-4..... 48
Rough Winged Swallow, 1-5..... 70
Blue-fronted Jay, 1-1..... 30
Pinon Jay, 1-1..... 40

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Pied-billed Grebe	04	Cooper's "	12	Western Meadowlark	04
Cassin's Auklet	40	Harris's "	20	Ariz. Hooded Oriole	10
Murre	13	Red shouldered "	15	Hooded "	12
Calif. Murre	12	Fla. "	20	Orchard "	03
Razor-billed Auk	15	Red-bellied "	30	Brewer's Blackbird	02
Western Gull	12	Golden Eagle	3 00	Fla. Grackle	06
Short-billed Gull	60	Gyrfalcon	3 00	Bronzed "	02
Laughing "	10	Aplomado Falcon	1 00	Gt. Tailed "	04
California "	12	Am. Osprey	35	Boat- " "	04
Bonaparte's "	60	Am. Long-eared Owl	15	House Finch	02
Royal Tern	12	Screech Owl	15	St. Lucas House Finch	09
Forster's "	04	California Screech Owl	18	Arkansas Goldfinch	04
Common "	04	Kennicott's " "	35	McCown's Longspur	30
Sooty "	12	Rocky Mt. " "	20	Oregon Vesper Sparrow	08
Black "	04	Flammulated " "	90	Vesper "	02
Noddy "	15	Pacific Gt. Horned "	55	Henslow's "	45
Fulmar "	25	American Hawk "	90	Sharp-tailed "	08
Leach's Petrel	10	Burrowing "	08	Western Lark "	02
Fla. Cormorant	09	Calif. Pygmy "	80	Gambel's "	06
Farallone "	12	Roadrunner	08	White-throated "	12
Brandt's "	10	Yellow-billed Cuckoo	04	Chipping "	01
Brown Pelican	10	Hairy Woodpecker	18	Clay-colored "	12
Calif. Brown Pelican	20	Gairdner's "	12	Brewer's "	12
Am. Merganser	35	Red-cockaded "	45	Field "	02
Red-breasted Merganser	12	Baird's (Tex.) "	10	Gray-headed Junco	35
Black Duck	15	Nuttall's "	30	Black-throated Sparrow	12
Widgeon	12	Pileated "	50	Bell's "	25
Shoveller	12	Red-headed "	03	Rufous-winged "	90
Pintail	12	Californian "	15	Song "	01
Am. Scaup Duck	25	Lewis's "	15	Desert Song "	12
Am. Golden-eye	20	Red-breasted Sapsucker	45	Heerman's Song "	04
Barrow's Golden-eye	35	Flicker	01	San Diego Song "	05
Northern Elder	20	Gilded Flicker	18	Rusty Song "	08
White-winged Scoter	75	Whip-poor-Will	50	Towhee	05
Surf Scoter	65	Nighthawk	15	White-eyed Towhee	18
Ruddy Duck	18	Western Nighthawk	15	Spurred "	07
Canada Goose	70	Scissors-tailed Flycatcher	04	Green-tailed "	20
Whistling Swan	90	Kingbird	02	Cardinal	02
White Ibis	12	Couch's Kingbird	30	St. Lucas's Cardinal	20
Least Bittern	05	Cassins's "	08	Gray-tailed "	12
Great Blue Heron	12	Giraud's Fly Catcher	40	Texan "	08
Reddish Egret	12	Sulphur-bel'd "	50	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	04
Little Blue Heron	05	Gt. Crested "	05	Black-headed "	05
Black-crown Night-heron	05	Ash-throated "	08	Blue "	08
Limpkin	30	Phoebe	02	Indigo Bunting	04
Clapper Rail	05	Wood Pewee	06	Lazuli "	07
King "	08	West's Wood Pewee	07	Sharpe's Seed Eater	15
Virginia "	06	Western Fly Catcher	15	Dickcissel	04
Sora "	04	Acadian " "	05	Lark Bunting	08
Purple Gallinule	10	Least " "	05	Scarlet Tanager	10
Florida "	05	Little (now Traill's) do	05	Summer "	10
Am. Avocet	18	Traill's (now Alder) do	05	Barn Swallow	02
Eng. Snipe	10	Skylark	05	Bank "	02
Dunlin	12	Prairie Horned Lark	08	Cedar Waxwing	04
Red-backed Sandpiper	1 00	Desert " "	10	White-rumped Shrike	04
Spotted "	05	Mexican " "	20	Loggerhead "	04
Whimbrel Curlew	12	Am. Magpie	05	California "	03
Lapwing Plover	06	Yellow-billed Magpie	18	Red-eyed Vireo	04
Killdeer "	06	Fla. Blue Jay	08	Warbling "	08
Ring "	10	Long-crested Jay	45	Yellow-th'd "	10
Wilson's "	12	Calif. Jay	08	Black-cap'd "	30
Bob-white	05	Arizona Jay	30	White-eyed "	07
Valley Partridge	06	Northern Raven	40	Hutton's "	50
Sooty Grouse	30	Am. Crow	02	Black and White Warbler	20
Ruffed "	12	Florida Crow	12	Prothonotary "	10
Gray Ruffed Grouse	20	Fish Crow	12	Parula "	10
Willow Ptarmigan	35	Pinon Jay	80	Yellow "	02
Rock "	20	Starling	05	Magnolia "	18
Prairie Sharp-tail Grouse	18	Bobolink	08	Chestnut-sided "	07
Sage Grouse	20	Cowbird	01	Pine "	18
Chacalaca	15	Dwarf Cowbird	03	Ovenbird	07
White-winged Dove	04	Red-wing Blackbird	01	Kentucky "	30
Mexican Ground Dove	09	Sonoran Redwing	15	McGillivray's "	30

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Maryland Yellowthroat..	06	Leconte's "	65	Carolina Chickadee.....	07
Yellow-breasted Chat....	03	Crissal "	30	Calif. Bush-tit.....	05
Am. Redstart.....	04	Cactus Wren.....	06	Verdin.....	12
White Wagtail.....	05	Rock "	20	Russet-back Thrush.....	06
Meadow Pipit.....	03	Carolina "	08	Wood "	02
Sage Thrasher.....	20	Bewick's "	08	Wilson's "	04
Mockingbird.....	02	Vigor's "	08	Olive-back "	15
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A MONTHLY PUBLICATION DEVOTED TO

OOLOGY, ORNITHOLOGY AND TAXIDERMY.

VOL. XXI. NO. 5. ALBION, N. Y., MAY, 1904. WHOLE NO. 202

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THE OÖLOGIST.

VOL. XXI. NO. 5. ALBION, N. Y., MAY, 1904. WHOLE NO. 202

THE OÖLOGIST.

A Monthly Publication Devoted to

OÖLOGY, ORNITHOLOGY AND TAXIDERMY.

FRANK H. LATTIN, Publisher,
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ERNEST H. SHORT, Editor and Manager.

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Passing of the Passenger Pigeon.

BY J. W. PRESTON.

It is a matter for regret when so fine a bird which once was so plentiful as to be a feature of the region it frequented becomes so scarce that it is a rarity. I well remember when "Wild Pigeons" were as common as Turtle Doves. Notoriously gregarious they flew often in vast flocks, which moved over the country, back and forth from feeding ground to roosting place or in the migrations. The movement of these flocks was similar to that of the American Golden Plover, yet more swift and with less of that undulating motion.

I have spent much effort studying the flight of birds, have often timed some of our fleetest species. That denizen of the wooded lakes, the Loon, when coming from a feeding ground will mount up far above the woods, and then from that risky height, with closed wings, dash through space at an incalculable rate of speed, or the Balded Eagle when falling upon its prey attains terrific velocity. But no bird of my acquaintance can take its start and accomplish a mile in as little time and with the grace and ease of the Passenger Pigeon. Every movement begin of that constant, watchful alertness and unrest natural to the bird.

One who has seen the movements of these birds in spring and autumn fights will not forget the elegant ease of motion and the grand sweep when they circled round and over a grove, into the depths of which they plunged soon to emerge and whirl again and again before alighting in the top of some large tree. Then while contending for a choice perch, they would continually be changing position and fighting each other, making little excursions from the main flock only to

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return again. With so many birds together, uttering their wild note, with much fluttering of wings, these gatherings were attractive and full of life. Then in an instant at some intrusion, they would with rush of beating pinions, depart as quickly as they came.

During the autumn they become very flat on the acorns as well as grain. I have seen immense numbers of them swarm into fields where they almost covered the grain shocks and did much damage, but their natural food seemed to be largely acorns in this locality. I remember once to have crept through the underbrush until close upon a company of perhaps one hundred, among some trees in an open place in a grove, some were on the ground and some on trees, where they were resting. Certainly they were as trim and graceful as any bird could be. There the sun gleamed on the resplendent plumage which shone again. During the spring of 1882 I collected eggs of this species in the white oak forests along the Iowa River in Johnson County. Again in 1887, near Lake Itasca, Minn. and later on the Red River, but these resorts were abandoned.

Uniformly I have found them nesting in remote forest places where shelter was good. Here they lose much of their fear and may be approached quite closely, yet the intense energy and activity is noticeable and really they make quite a good deal of fuss about the amusingly, shiftless style of nest they are building. They certainly lose many more "sticks" than are made to stay in place at the forking of some horizontal branch, from four to thirty feet from ground, and as far out from the tree or sapling as may be.

This nest is so flimsy that the bird might be convicted of "criminal carelessness" toward the young bird or "squab," for if the egg does not anticipate the accidental downfall the offspring is more than likely to do so. Here in lies a chief factor in his decrease; this, with the encroachments of the ever-lurking Crow, which destroys eggs and young.

Upon this slight structure is deposited one creamy white, smooth, shiny egg, which may be easily seen from below. I have not taken a set of two eggs. Before me is an egg kindly presented by my brother, the Rev. H. L. Preston, collected by him in April, 1873, an early date for this latitude as those other sets were taken in May. This egg is elliptical, wrought to the faintest suggestion of a point at one end, being almost equal ended, the outlines are very even. Incubation was advanced. The measurements are 1.40 x 1.05.

One summer day in 1900 while I was driving along the dusty road a fine adult male of the species flew close by me and alighted in a small willow, where he sat looking about for a little time, then flew swiftly out across the fields and he was gone, the last one I have seen, and this creature of the passing time, like his native groves, has disappeared.

An Egg Collecting Trip in Frankiin Co., Indiana.

The morning of May 21, 1902, equipped with a complete set of oological tools, I started out for the White Water River, which is about four miles from my home, (Oak Forest, Franklin Co., Indiana.)

It was a bright, beautiful May morning, not a breath of air stirring, the green grass covered the ground, the trees and flowers were in their full bloom and splendor, the birds were singing sweetly from every bush and tree, while the females were busily engaged in their household affairs.

The object of this trip was to secure

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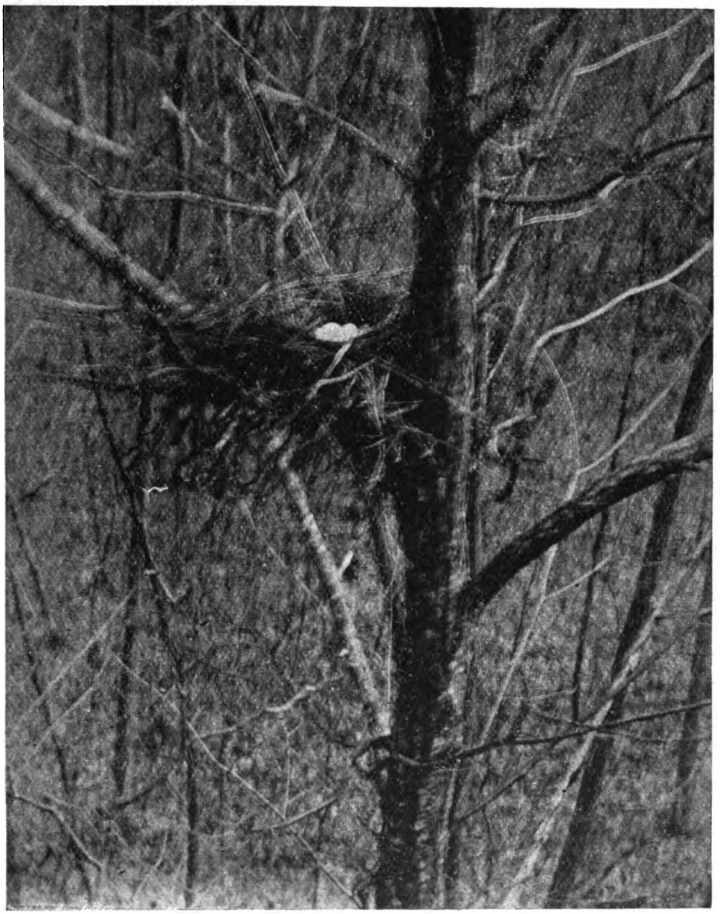


Photo by L. S. Horton, Hyde Park. N. Y.

NEST AND EGGS OF COOPER'S HAWK 45 FEET FROM THE GROUND, PHOTOGRAPHED FROM THE TOP OF ANOTHER TREE, 15 FEET AWAY ON A CLOUDY, WINDY DAY.

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an egg of the Least Bittern (*Ardetta exilis*) of which I observed a pair building a nest a few days before, and upon arriving at the nest which was located near the river in some tall grass, the female was flushed and the nest contained but one egg, which is now in my collection.

In the same locality a short distance away I came across an American Coot's nest with ten spotted eggs, one of which went into my collecting box, the remaining ones were left in the nest, as my collection consists only of single eggs.

My next find was four nests of the Long-billed Marsh Wrens (*Cistothorus palustris*) which appeared more like mouse-nests than anything else I could compare them with, and only one of the nests contained five eggs, one of which I preserved.

I next strolled down the river bed where I discovered a nest in the sand bar with four spotted eggs of the Spotted Sandpiper, the single one which I preserved was slightly incubated. In a bank near by I observed a Belted Kingfisher (*Ceryle alcyon*) fly from a hole, and after about one hour's digging I secured seven glossy white eggs, and as the bird would not return to its spoiled nest I took the entire set of these eggs. While at this work I observed the female Spotted Sandpiper return to its remaining three eggs and proceed incubating as if nothing had happened.

The next two nests I found were one of the Yellow-breasted Chat with four eggs and one nest of the Cardinal Grosbeak, but as I had eggs of these two species already in my collection I left them undisturbed. I also found the Bank Swallow nesting in the same bank where the Belted Kingfisher's were procured, but the nests were high up on the steep face of the bank so I could not procure them. Upon the green grass under the welcome shade



JAMES F. HONECKER, OOLOGIST,
Oak Forest, Indiana.

of a large elm tree I sat down to eat my dinner. after resting some time I started out again for new material. I next came to an old Sycamore stub, when a rap on it flushed a Red-headed Woodpecker from a hole. From a set of six pure white eggs one was taken. On a grassy hillside I found a nest of four eggs of the Killdeer, one egg went along with me leaving three in the nest for its owner.

Entering the woods I discovered a nest of the Cooper's Hawk having an egg of this specie I paid no further attention to this nest; and after walking about three miles I didn't find a single nest nor egg. As by this time the sun was sinking low in the west, reflecting its golden sunbeams on the distant hilltops, I was nearing home when I had the pleasure of finding a nest of the Bob-white under a large stone, leaning against an old stump. The

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nest was placed on the ground, lined with fine grass and feathers, and contained four beautiful white eggs, one of which I preserved. I now arrived home, and it is needless to state I was tired and hungry, but I will never regret the trip. The eggs were then prepared for the cabinet. I was well pleased with the results of my collecting trip. I have collected many more eggs but the above is the result of one day's work.

JOSEPH F. HONECKER.

Oak Forest, Ind.

Collecting in Northern Indiana.

It was a lovely day, late in the month of May, when our little party started from home, going to one of the lakes so common in this state. We carried everything necessary for a week's camping and collecting, and I may add that in the end we were not disappointed.

The sun had not yet risen over the eastern horizon, when we reached a thick swamp, which however, was not our destination. A good hour's wading and struggling with the rushes and briers was still before us, and streams, too, often intercepted us. Therefore it was indeed gratifying when we reached the spot selected for our camp, and by the time the necessary arrangements had been completed it was noon. All agreed that it was useless to start collecting that day as, the heat was terrific and birds were all quite, with the possible exception of some Bob-white which would occasionally send out its clear musical note across some distant meadow.

The next morning everyone was astir early, and anxious for the start. By the time the sun rose, we had left camp several miles behind, directing our way toward a rather large lake which was situated near the center of the swamp, and was known for the large flocks of Shovelers that yearly nested there. Birds were already flitting from tree to tree, flowers blooming in greatest profusion everywhere, and in short everything was as beautiful as nature alone can make it; we too were in the best of moods, proceeding gaily, when a whirl of wings directly in our path startled us, but as it is only a stray Bob-white, let it alone. Alas! a shot from someone had already brought the bird fluttering to the ground, where a short search among the weeds revealed the victim. But what a strange Quail, why, it is no Quail, but a Wood-cock, and what a large, fine specimen at that, of the bird that will so soon be unknown. A nest must be near, and all instinctively turn to a small clump of willows, where the nest is sure to be found. But what is our disappointment when a half hour's search reveals nothing, and we must proceed. We hope for better luck later, however.

The sun was shining brightly when we reached the lake, and all were eager to embark, and search the grassy islets and shores for the treasures they are sure to contain. Small dark spots are dimly visible along the distant shores, which our glasses reveal to be Ducks. But we are aware of the Shovelers habits. No nests are to be found there. Therefore we must proceed directly to the small islets, and this we do. A few late Martins (Bank Swallows) are still skimming over the water, and a solitary Heron can be seen fishing on the distant shore. Killdeers can be faintly heard from all sides, but can not be seen, so we must imagine them running along the shore, feeding on the small molloscs and crabs abounding. But the islets are already reached, and how eagerly does everyone search every tuft of rushes and weeds passed. What was it that so silently dropped into the water a few yards ahead. And with

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such a dull splash as to be scarcely audible. Ah! at last. How we fairly skim over the water in our eagerness to reach the spot, and carefully parting the rushes what is our joy to find eight dull, bluish eggs snugly lying in a nest of softest down. A photograph is first secured and then the prize. We already feel rewarded for our exertions, but are still pleased to continue until six beautiful sets are securely packed in the boxes, just one set for each, and the rest are not disturbed. We now turn toward a different shore, where hundreds of blackbirds keep up an incessent screaming. It is an easy matter to secure all the eggs desired, nests being found in nearly available spot. The heat warns us that it is noon, and landing, we are glad to rest an hour, after which we slowly proceed toward the camp. For the purpose of making as many new finds as possible we divide into two parties, each pursuing a different route. We were nearing the same clump of willows passed in the morning, when we decided to search again. This time we were more successful. After a short search the nest was found. In a small depression lay four large ashy-gray eggs, thickly spotted with purple and brown. We could easily see that the nest had not been occupied during the day, and this showed that it was very likely the one belonging to the bird shot in the morning. Perhaps not. Any way they are the rarest set found yet. The sun warns us of the coming dusk, and we must proceed rapidly as we are still far from camp. A few sets of Cardinal and Chat eggs are all we find, and we reach camp to find our friends already awaiting us. L. E. MILLER.

[The set of Wood-cock was undoubtedly a second set owing to some accident to the first eggs or young. The Wood-cock lays her eggs early in April and if the first attempt results in her raising a brood I do not think that they nest again that season. I found a half incubated set on May 20th, 1897, but an investigation soon located the party who took the first set from the same pair four weeks earlier.—ED.]

Nesting of the Black Tern.

CHARLES W. BOWMAN.

The lake region of North Dakota offers special inducements to this tern, which is here found in great abundance, both as migrant and breeder. The first birds arrive from the south about the first to the middle of April. A few solitary individuals are usually seen a few days before the bulk of the species are with us. They make no noise upon their first arrival, but soon become noisy enough to suit the most fastidious, seeming to incessantly utter their harsh notes which soon grate upon the ear.

About two weeks after their first arrival the nesting site is chosen, and nest building is begun. This site usually consists of a grassy slough or marsh of any size from one to one hundred acres in extent. The Terns seem to like best those sloughs in which patches of grass and open water are interspersed, carefully avoiding those bodies of water which are heavily overgrown with rushes. The chosen situation is usually occupied by from one dozen to fifty pairs of birds, and they invariably return to nest year after year in the same spot unless molested, providing the surroundings remain the same.

The nests are usually on small patches of open water, which is closely surrounded by a growth of grass, which may vary in depth from a few inches to several feet. They are some times frail structures consisting of but a handful of grass, which rests upon the surface of the water, but they are often more substantial affairs being placed upon a pile of drift or an old muskrat house. By the time that incubation is completed they are generally much de-

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composed from contact with the water. The remarkable protective coloration of the eggs, and the inconspicousness of the nest, cause them to be easily overlooked, and if the actions of the birds be taken as a criterion the nests will not be easily found by the inexperienced collector, for they are very vociferous even at a long distance from the nests. These are never placed close together and are often fifty or one hundred yards apart. Any intrusion upon their domestic affairs is most fiercely resented by the terns, as the intruder nears the nest, they make repeated and lightning like dashes at his head, often giving that member a smart tap with their sharp bill.

The eggs are two or three in number, and are generally more pyriform in shape than those of the other gulls and terns, but they much resemble these in colors and markings, which are of endless variety. They average in size about 1.33 x .95 inches.

Soon after nesting time the birds lose their handsome black and silver suit, which they have worn through courtship and early married life, and as their appearance is no longer a matte. of much moment, they don a coat of the most fantastic pattern, in which black and white equally predominate; but in the early autumn they depart for the sunny south land, and here their plumage becomes almost white.

Rallus Virginianus.

VIRGINIA RAIL IN A BAY WINDOW.

On November 19, 1903, some boys captured a Virginia Rail; the snow was 12 to 14 inches deep and snowing hard at the time. The little fellow had waited a few days too long before taking his southern trip and had to drop by the way. A party ga ve him to me the next day to mount as he supposed he would have to die. I took the Rail home and Mrs. K thought it wicked to kill such a pretty bird and I did not like the idea so we concluded to let him stay in the conservatory. At first he was a little shy and would not eat and at night would fly all around the house until after the lights were out when he would quiet down and rest for the night. He would eat some in the day time and began very soon to get accustomed to his new home. But every evening for ten days he would fly around the house as long as the lights were burning, then after that he became perfectly reconciled to his new home and would go to roost as soon as dark on some plant, perfectly contented, and now he is very regular in his habits; has one particular place for roosting high up in the plant room and takes his bread, milk and meat every day. Will come and take food from my hand, works in the roots of plant jars as though he was after worms, goes in an earthen dish and bathes almost every day, and seems to enjoy life in the Bay Window.

ALMON E. KIBBE,
Mayville, N. Y.

Editorial Notes.

NOTICE.—We are sending a copy of this issue to a number who were subscribers to the Oologist for some time but who dropped it during the period of irregularity caused by the growing pressure of Dr. Lattin's other duties.

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ERNEST H. SHORT,
Mgr. Oologist, Chili, N. Y.

Mr. Philo W. Smith, Jr. of St. Louis writes us that he will put his fine Collection of Eggs and Skins on exhibition at his Hotel during the World's Fair.

This and his very reasonable rates (see ad.) will doubtless induce many Ornithologists and Oologist to make their headquarters with him.

R. T. F. LACONA, N. Y.

Your bird with dull brown back, gray-brown head and throat and white outside feathers showing in tail when flying is doubtless Slate-colored Junco.

F. W. K., CLEVELAND.

Jan. 15 to Feb. 15th in West Fla. would do for eggs of Bald Eagle, early nests of Sandhill Crane etc. but is too early for the bulk of Fla. birds. March 1st to April 15th would catch the bulk of shore and water birds, Herons, Ibis; etc. There are still "Gators" to kill if you get well south,

---

Publications Received.

Bulletin of the Michigan Ornithological Club. Vol. V, No. 2.

This is the expected Kirtland's Number with exhaustive articles by Norman A. Wood and Chas. C. Adams. The cuts of Nesting Sites are dissapointing owing to lack of detail but we all know the difficulties this work offers the photographer.

American Ornithology, Vol. IV, No. 4.

Journal of the Maine Ornithological Society.

Vol. VI, No. 2.

An extra large issue containing much that is interesting but especially so to readers of the Oologist is the article on the Yellow Palm Warbler in Maine by O. W. Knight, B. S. giving the history of 9 authentic breeding records and a good half-tone of nest and eggs.

Atlantic Slope Naturalist, Vol. I, No. 6.

The Amateur Naturlist, Vol. I, No. 2.

Book Review.

"Odds and Ends" by Oliver Davie; author of "Nests and Eggs", "Methods in the Art of Taxidermy; etc.

A collection of short sketches and poems tastfully bound in one volumn.

As a rule Naturalists are too practical to write good poetry but there are surprises in store for the reader of the Scotch dialect poems in this volumn. A number of typographical error's but otherwise nicely printed.

In the front appears a good reproduction of Autograph letter from Ex-President McKinley and a good half-tone of the authors portrait.

See adv. in other columns.

Review.

"The Haunts of the Golden-winged Warbler."

Being No. III of Gleaning's from Nature by the well known Ornithologist, J. Warren Jacobs.

A treatise on the Habits, Nesting and Eggs of this bird in the vicinity of Waynesburg, Penn.

Nicely printed tastefully bound and beautifully illustrated from photos.

It exhibits the same pains taking care in research and preparation as the previous issues of this series and the color plate conforming to Ridgway's "Nomenclature of Colors", (a work now out of print); adds greatly to the value of the work. Mr. Jacobs is to be congratulated on the continuation of this interesting series and we hope there may be a sufficient edition to meet the demands of his brother Ornithologists.

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Standard Egg Catalogue

Second Edition (1904) More pages, Features, Enlarged Scope. A Standard and Invaluable Guide for Collectors and Exchangers or Purchasers of *Nests*, *Eggs* and *Bird Skins*. (Conforming to the nomenclature of the A. O. U.)

☞ Will be issued before collecting season closes, with active co-operation of American Bird Students, a big edition. Price 25 cents.

THE FIRST EDITION,

issued in New York in '96, pricing eggs only, still enjoys wide circulation as a handy and invaluable compendium, the *only* amateur Catalogue.

THE SECOND EDITION

will have a chapter by Mr. Fred M. Dille of Colorado, of great value to collectors owing to new "contraptions," with numerous other features, including a

"Who's Who" in Oology.

Being a Directory of the *Leading* and reliable collectors, with their specialties, and of owners of private museums, classified by states and provinces for ready reference, with some abroad. Send promptly data as suggested, abbreviating if possible, or amplify with any other information desired to be inserted.

John Smith, M. A. O. U., etc., Boston Common, etc. Has Coll. B. and E. (birds and eggs); Specialty, Rap. (Raptores), or Wat B. (water birds); Ex. D. (exchanges desired) Off. Es. sets Hks. Sea. B. (offers especially sets hawks and sea birds), or Sou. E. (southern eggs); Ex. Pho. (exchange photographs of nests, birds, etc.) W. P. Eggs. (will purchase same); Mus. Sup. (Museums supplied.)

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IMPORTANT.

All Collectors are urged and invited to suggest charges in *exchange* value of skins and eggs. Write to-night. Give reasons. Credit given those who aid. Lists of private collections desired.

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President Cooper Ornithological Club,

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THE OÖLOGIST.

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION DEVOTED TO
OOLOGY, ORNITHOLOGY AND TAXIDERMY.

VOL. XXI. No. 6. ALBION, N. Y., JUNE, 1904. WHOLE No. 203

WANTS, FOR SALES AND EXCHANGES,

Brief Special announcements "Wants," "Exchanges," "For Sales," inserted in this department for 25 cents per 25 words. Notices over 25 words charged at the rate of 1-2 cent for each additional word. No notice inserted for less than 25 cents. Terms, cash with order.
Strictly first-class specimens will be accepted in payment at 1-3 list rates.

What's Your Number?

Examine the number following your name on the wrapper of this month's OOLOGIST. It denotes when your subscription expired or will expire.

203	your	subscription	expires	with this issue
205	"	"	"	Aug., 1904
207	"	"	"	Oct., 1904
209	"	"	"	Dec., 1904
212	"	"	"	Mar., 1905
257	"	"	"	Dec., 1908

Intermediate numbers can easily be determined. If we have you credited wrong we wish to rectify.

Entered as second-class matter December 21, 1903, at the post office at Albion, N. Y., under the Act of Congress of March 3. 1879.

FOR EXCHANGE.—Choice southern sets with full accurate and stanbard data, Chuckwill's-widow, Am. Oyslercatcher, Wilson's Plover, Willet, Royal Fern, Brown Pelican, Swainson's Warbler, Hooded Warbler, Clapper Rail, Black Skimmer, Summer Tanager, etc., for A. I sets with data. DOCTOR M. T. CLECKLEY, 457 Greene Strest, Augusta. Ga. My t f.

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WANTED.—Back numbers of the OOLOGIST until further notice we will allow the prices quoted below for the numbers noted. *No others wanted.* You may select in payment any specimens catalogued by either of us. This offer *does not* apply to Instruments, Supplies or Books except by special arrangement. For 50c, worth will allow you a years subscription to Oologist. For 25c worth we will send you a coupon good for an exchange. Notice. Copies *must be clean* and *whole.*

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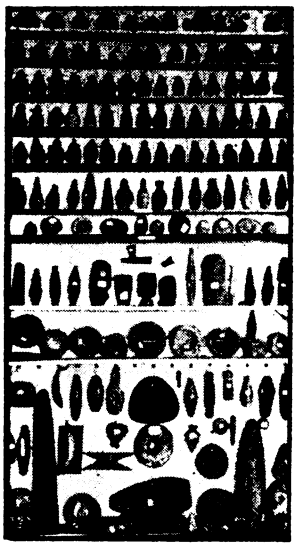
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June 2t.

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Sonoma County.

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THE OÖLOGIST.

VOL. XXI. NO. 6. ALBION, N. Y., JUNE, 1904. WHOLE NO. 203

THE OÖLOGIST.

A Monthly Publication Devoted to

OÖLOGY, ORNITHOLOGY AND TAXIDERMY.

FRANK H. LATTIN, Publisher,
ALBION, N. Y.

ERNEST H. SHORT, Editor and Manager.

Correspondence and items of interest to the student of Birds, their Nests and Eggs, solicited from all.

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Each subscriber is given a card good for a Want, Exchange or For Sale Notice. (This card is redeemable at any time within one year from date thereon.)

Subscriptions can begin with any number. Back numbers of the OOLOGIST can be furnished at reasonable rates. Send stamp for descriptions and prices.

☞Remember that the publisher must be notified by letter when a subscriber wishes his paper stopped, and all arrearages must be paid.

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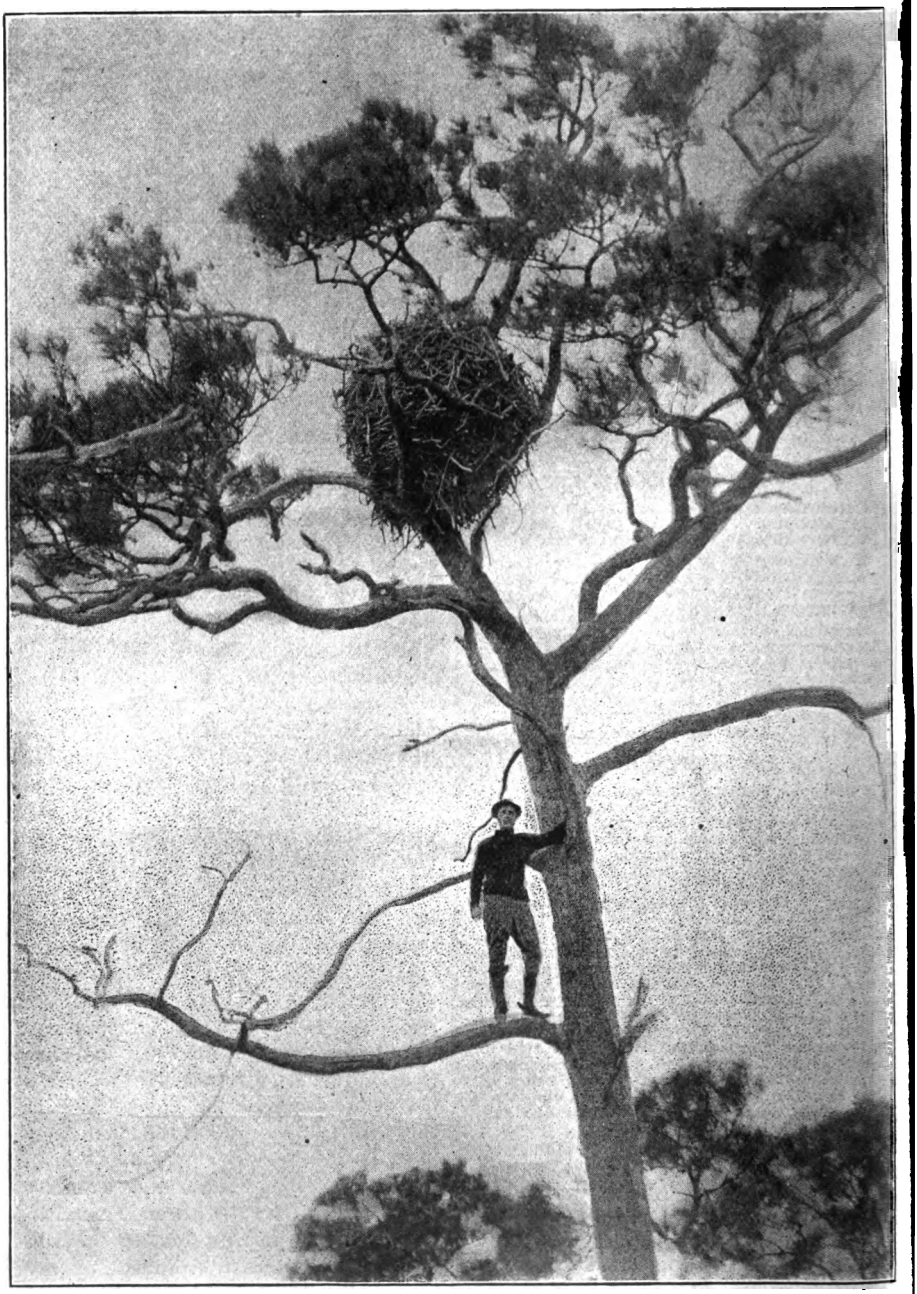
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ERNEST H. SHORT, Editor and Manager.
Chili, Monroe Co., N. Y.

A Season with the Bald Eagles.

I have been disappointed so many times in visiting these nests that the past season I concluded to be in time and made my plans to start out with my launch up and down the coast about November 15th which I dare say to you northern people seems very strange. The Bald Eagle begins business down in this Section very much earlier than on the west coast of Florida. I have found them nesting on the west coast with young birds only about two to five days old as late as March 4th, here the latest I have found eggs was January 7th. Well after making my plans as before stated I was notified while sojourning at Asheville, N. C. that a hurricane had swept over Palm Beach and torn up things generally Sept. 15th so I hurried here and the enormous amount of work getting my place in order made it impossible to get out before Dec. 10th when the first nest was visited and as the launch pushed her nose upon the shore within one hundred feet of the nest and no Eagle in sight I began to lose heart fearing that the thing that had happened there the year previous and had spoiled my fun, had been repeated. "Old Uncle Abe" had been shot. All these thoughts ran through my mind in a very short space of time for the very moment we arose to get out and see what was doing to my surprise again off flew my friend, I then said to my partner, (who for short I'll call Minnie) "I'll bet we are to early for eggs, because the birds don't make the fuss they usually do when eggs or young are in sight." Well as I never miss a chance to climb an Eagles nest (notwithstanding I'm starting on my second half century ride) I strapped on my climbers and climbed to the beautiful nest but 35 ft. high in a most symet-

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MR. RYMAN CLIMBING TO NEST OF BALD EAGLE IN FLA.

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rical large pine tree and the nest was so very large some six feet in depth that I made three fierce attempts to get my hands over the rim far enough to ascertain what was to reward me for such laborious effort getting up to a nest so near the ground. The Bald Eagle as a rule builds in very tall trees and quite near the top as the accompaning picture will show. The nest was so large, I should say about 7 feet across, that I could not get around and on top of it as I do in most cases, but I was there to find out what was in that nest, I had not come twenty miles for my health alone, and while Minnie was calling "be careful now," as my body was at right angles with the trunk of the tree, I grew desperate, almost made up my mind to burrow through as I have done in some cases, but I was finally astonished and rewarded by putting two beautiful eggs in my pocket and if I had only had a glass of ice water at that time I would almost have been willing to trade the set of eggs for it "say! the're beaut's" "say! Minnie, say we go up to that other nest, but a few hundred yards away," "all right; its a go," off I went and to my astonishment some scoundral had nailed cleats on and I have no doubt had taken eggs from that nest, it had every appearance of being in condition such as are found when containing eggs, lined with fine lining of bark and some spanish moss. Well—so far so good lets start home, no! lets get a guide while here and go out in the woods and shoot a deer or two first and its possible we may find another nest or some rookery of other birds. Very well. All arrangements made off we start by day break next morning after driving twelve miles through a charming paradise for game we pitched our tent at half past three o'clock. "Say we go out a little while" says the guide, very well off we start Within an hour three fine deer jumped up within twenty feet of the guide and after a cannonading for several minutes it seemed to me, I ran toward him and saw three as fine deer as I ever saw getting through space good and lively—how many did you kill George says I; well to make it short we didn't take any deer to town that night, nor did we find another nest out there but met a hunter who had just shot a fine large Bald Eagle, which I'm always sorry to see during nesting season. Well I was anxious to get back home as I had been out in the Everglades but a few days before and found a fine Eagles nest with the bird on and she would not leave the nest and I concluded she was merely holding her claim and was not ready for business as yet, but when I found the two eggs above mentioned and they were somewhat incubated I said this nest needs my attention so Minnie and I with my colored man to help pole the boat started and when there another surprise met me. No bird appeared about the place and I must say I felt a little discouraged. Never the less as my love for climbing to Eagles nests is so great I concluded to go up. Here in a dense cypress swamp was an immense nest in the top of a slender cypress tree fully 60 feet high and not a limb except those that support the nest. Another tree of similiar size was about six feet away which I concluded to climb and when even with the nest I would swing over to the nest and help myself. When nearing the top I heard some chirping and discovered the Eagle circling overhead but not making the usual fuss, but when I finally got to the top I saw the prize two fine ivories that looked fresh. How am I to get them is the question now. The nest is about 8 feet across, I swing over and step one foot on edge of nest and wonder how I am to get those eggs. A thought finally struck me. I took a

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stick from the nest about 5 feet long and about an inch thick with a crook at one end and with that I reached over as far as I could and pulled them to the edge of nest when I gently took them in out of the wet, packing them carefully in hunting coat pocket with plenty of Spanish moss to keep them breaking in my descent, before starting down my partner Minnie says stand out and let me get your picture standing on nest, and when coming from the swamp in water two feet deep and saw grass above my head she took another fine view of me holding one egg up in each hand. Well I began to see it was evidently high time I got after the rest of the nests I had planned to visit a year ago, and also to find more. My son had come to spend the holidays and he and I had always for several years past hunted together. We concluded to visit a nest we took a pair of young Eagles from the year before. We started one bright morning early; Minnie with us of course; she by the way took the pictures, all of which; some nine or ten are very fine she also did the rifle shooting, when necessary; being a fine "amazonian" shot. We found our nest, and a beauty it was in a large pine tree some 60 feet high, the picture is shown herewith with my boy about half way up. Walter Raine is the possessor of the fine set of eggs. I find as I get to writing there is much to say and space I fear already used up but the most interesting finds come later and which will be given in another article or so with photo. of nest with Eagle perched nearly and with collector climbing to nest, also of nest containing an unusual set of 3 eggs.

Yours truely,
J. J. RYMAN,
Palm Beach, Florida.

Michigan Randoms.

A set of four eggs of the Red-shouldered Hawk on April 1, 1904, in Royal Oak Tp., Oakland Co., beats my previous record by four days. April 15 to 20 is the best time to look for sets of this Hawk here. My latest record is two fresh eggs on May 18, 1902, in Van Buren Tp., Wayne Co.

Made the acquaintance of a pair of Bald Eagles in Monguagon Tp., Wayne Co., on March 13, 1904. Nest in fork of large white oak limb and just ninety-five feet four inches above the ground. Tree eighteen feet around the base and main crotch seventy-five feet up. Nest six and one-half feet in total exterior depth. It contained three eggs incubated about five days.

Visited a colony of Common Tern on June 14, 1903. This was on Middle Sister Island, Lake Erie. Total number of eggs on Island were 273-1, 248-2, 297-3, 38-4. 10-5—1166 sets or 2462 eggs. One of the sets of four was undoubtedly the product of a single bird, but the remaining sets of that number and and those of five could be readily separated into two sets per nest, thus increasing the number of breeding pairs to 1213. Three Crows and a Cooper's Hawk left the Island soon after our arrival. Numerous little heaps of egg shells scattered throughout the woods and a number of partly eaten Tern tells the story.

Was much interested in the question of set marks in January number. The following system has been adopted by a number of collectors and is a good one as it imparts an idea of the breeding abundance of the species. My last set of redstart for 1903 is marked 143-4. This indicates a set of 4 and the 143rd ever found by me. The first set of 1904 will be marked 144 and so on. I also add the season set mark to large eggs. The last set of Red-shouldered Hawk for 1903 is marked 624-7, being

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my 62nd set ever found, the 7th of the season and consisting of 4 eggs.

Wish to endorse Mr. A. D. Brown's statement in March number. As an exchange medium the Oologist has no equal, and never had during its existance. I base this opinion upon personal results. Have been a subscriber since 1885 and tried all other ornithological publications as they appeared. It should receive the support of all collectors and bird students.

J. CLAIRE WOOD.

Some Tree Climbing.

Artemas Ward has observed that wicked people work harder for a tropical hereafter than do good people for a seat in heaven. This is appliable to the Oologist on the grounds of current opinion proclaiming nest robbing a sin unpardonable. As accorded by the majority he is a sinful being with the added appellation of crank. Little things like this do not trouble him, however, and he is so unkind as to also entertain some ideas respecting crankism but shifting all the honors upon the shoulders of the opposition, which tends not to conciliation. That he delights to study things like eggs demonstrates mental derangement further proved by his idiotic craving for lots of fresh air and rambles in meadow and wood and appreciation of everything in nature's realm. In the interest of the birds the majority has appealed to his humane sensibilities but so callous is his heart that, upon returning to a locality where eggs were taken the week previous, his illusive optic fails to perceive birds sitting around with the tears of heart rending grief trickling down their feathered cheeks. Somehow they appear to him to be joyously hustling building material with the practical business like intention of depositing another set soon as possible. So you see, his case is hopeless but why not accept him as an evil to be tolerated?

Accepting the opening hypothesis as referable to the Oologist his heavenly possibilities are not encouraging. He always views an occupied hawk's nest with criminal designs upon its contents and expends more labor in the ascent than he ever will to ascend the Golden Stairs. Like many others, labor that is pleasure is no labor to him. Did the every day routine of business necessitate an amount of physical exertion equal to his field work he would succumb to despair in short order.

On February 28, 1904 the ear-like feather tufts that adorn the intellectual end of a Great Horned Owl were visible above the nest. It required no great mind to comprehend that the remainder of Madam was present even if out of sight but all the acoustical ingenuity that could be devised failed to secure a more satisfactory view of her person, in fact, she could not have adhered closer to the nest had she been glued to it. This nest was in a great white oak and just 84 feet above the ground as measured on March 15, 1903 when I took a set of two eggs from it.

This is Mike's second year of Oological tendency. The valve that let loose his pent up enthusiasm was a view of my collection. He early confided the information to possess a set of owl's eggs, taken by his own hand, was the goal of his monumental ambition. Consequently I paid Madam an informal call on March 1st accompanied by Mike and my complete climbing outfit. The tree was a forest patriarch, as intimated, but a much smaller one grew near by and a limb of this reached within fifteen feet of the nest. Mike had the choice of two courses—either strugle up the rough barked monarch or ascend the smaller tree and scoop the eggs. I enquired his preference. He prefered an elevator but since I had

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neglected to bring one along centered his affections upon the smaller tree which, by the way, was not so very small after all. It would have been an easy climb for an old hand but presented 84 feet of difficulty to Mike. It was his second experience with the irons and first tree of any size. He worked slowly up the trunk some 25 feet, then paused to rest and looked down. I asked if he felt a wild exhiliration of spirits; a sort of glad joyous freedom. No, his feelings did not seem to tend that way; they tended toward an insatiable yearning for *terra firma*. Things also began to assume a different aspect. The distance to the ground already looked as far as had the nest when viewed from said ground. When the first crotch was reached he had to gaze upward to the nest before he could believe himself less than a hundred feet in the air. This crotch was 35 feet up and formed a bulge in the trunk. Fortunately he could clasp his fingers through the crotch but this brought his face tight against the tree. This did not prevent the use of his legs, however, and he walked up until his knees touched his chin. Thus he posed for sometime with rear pointing straight out into the billowly atmosphere; then his legs walked down again for he dared not let go and reach for a higher hold. The perspiration dripped from his marble brow and life became a serious thing. Owl's eggs began to lose their charm and he wanted to come down but, spurred onward by an attack upon his pride, he made another attempt and conquered. The nest was easy by comparison except that the earth receded at an alarming rate. At last he was opposite the nest and not until then did Madam vacate. "Two beauties," was his gladsome cry. He let down the string for the scoop. The lower end dangled 30 feet above the ground. I then remembered having used a hundred feet of it during the winter. Mike possesses a nature philanthropic and a patience infinite. I heard him sigh as he sadly contemplated the dangling end but, without a word, he descended to where it would reach. To reclimb that 30 feet, burdened with the pole and scoop, was not like floating with the current. He arrived, however, and reached with the scoop—it fell short by five feet. Here is where a profane man would have said things but Mike is not profane. He dropped the scoop and by the time he had covered the 30 feet I had it attached to a longer pole. This second upward climb was more difficult than the first owing to the length and weight of the pole but he did it all right. Here he encountered another difficulty—he could not coax the eggs into the scoop. He chased them about the nest for a full half hour with the temperature below freezing and a strong wind blowing. "I must give up," he finally wailed and just then an egg rolled into the scoop followed by the other. When he lowered them I found the side of one jammed in but said nothing until he reached the ground an hour later. He was so exhausted that he could not speak and laid down in the snow until I induced him to sit up. As the fatigue wore off his enthusiasm returned until it blazed with old time splendor for he actually had a set of owl's eggs and of his own taking and would not part with it to-day for the best set of Golden Eagle ever laid.

The reader must not think the above a development of imagination for it is an actual truth in every detail except the name of the chief participant but then, you see, I meet him every day.

Here is one more of his experiences as a conclusion. Some time last summer he borrowed my climbers to investigate the nesting site of a Woodpecker but for reasons that were sufficient he failed to do so. On the way he saw a bird that, from his description, was

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probably a Crested Flycatcher. This bird was seated upon a limb beside a nest the size of a foot ball and hanging pendent like a great pear. Where had he seen such a nest before? It was in Johnson's Natural History but the birds were called weavers and were said to inhabit Africa. Was he on the verge of a great ornithological discovery? Could it be possible he was about to add a new genus to the North American Avifauna? The tree was small, his elation unbounded and he was soon on a level with the nest. Here he made a great discovery that nearly deprived him of breath—it was made entirely of paper. Quickly working out the limb he looked it over but could find no opening and eagerly tore a hole in the side. Whoop! Eureka! H———! It was a hornet's nest.

J. CLAIRE WOOD.

Warblers.

On looking over Short's "Birds of Western New York," I notice that he does not mention the Black and White Warblers as breeding, also Red-breasted Nutchatch.

Last June I was lucky enough to find both species breeding here. On the 5th of the month, I found a nest of Black and White Warbler containing four young a few days old and an addled egg. On the 7th, C. F. Stone, Verdi Burtch and myself went to the "Big Gullie," (a local name of a large gullie about a quarter of a mile from where I live,)in search of Canadian and Magnolia Warblers nests. Mr. Stone was in luck from start to finish. He took 2 or 3 sets of Magnolia, a set of Yellow-breasted Chat and a set of 5 Sharp-Shinned-Hawk.

About all that Mr. Burtch and I got was a good soaking as it rained nearly all day, but I saw a pair of Red-breasted Nuthatches feeding their young, and called Mr. Burtch's attention to them. We only saw three young. They had only been out of the nest a short time for they could fly only a short distance at a time.

Up near the head of the gullie I found another nest of Black and White Warbler containing 5 young about a week or ten days old. So I think the time to get fresh sets would be the latter part of May.

I found a Canadian Warblers nest containing 2 fresh eggs which I left for a full complement, but on going back 4 days latter I was disappointed to find the nest contained only the 2 eggs with incubation commenced.

CLARENCE N. DAVIS,
Branchport, N. Y.

Self-Explanatory.

FEBRUARY 25, 1904.

EDITOR OF OOLOGIST:

I would like to call attention to one W. J. Wirt, Albion, N. Y., who has been practicing fraud in the trading of eggs. Two years ago I caught him on spurious abnormal sets. He sent me a runt set of Phoebe, and wrote up a data for Wright's Fly-catcher collected in Arizona, for this job he got 2-2 Whip-poor-will. Later he sent me the best job of all—a set of three eggs of Robin (as he called it) with a *well marked runt*. The "*marked runt*" is a normal specimen of Clay-colored or Chipping Sparrow. This set he claimed to have taken from a Robin's nest, and when I accused him of fraud he pretended to be awfully hurt and sent me an affidavit which he wrote himself and signed his wife's name to and also a party named *Robert Short* as "eye witnesses" to the collection. He got more bumps from me and finally he said he was going out of the egg business altogether and was going into the farming and stock raising business.

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I had previously secured several good abnormal sets from him and was much chargined to find him to be a fraud.

A. E. Price, Grant Park, Ill. and Gerard A. Abbott, Chicago, Ill., also got nipped by him.

This is the first time I have seen his exchange notice in the OOLOGIST since he entered the "farming and stock raising business."

Yours very truly,
J. WARREN JACOBS.
Waynesburg, Pa.

[As the publication of such matters as these is the most unpleasant duty the Editor encounters he held this communication for further investigation. This only resulted in a torrent of complaints, some of them worse, from other prominent Oologists and some damaging evidence, including some unequivocal statements in regard to sets examined by the Smithsonian Institute at Washington, D. C., therefore the Editor sees no better course than to publish the above as a warning. —ED.]

That New Edition of Lattin's "Standard Catalogue."

In the next issue of Oologist we run the A. O. U. Numbers, revised to data, with temporary Exchange values for all eggs of N. Am. Birds as far as it is possible to set any value.

All advanced collectors are requested to mail the Editor a list of any changes in values they think advisable giving reasons if possible. Due credit will be given.

We desire that this fifth edition shall be the *Standard* and solicit the co-operation of all to that end.

This new edition will contain 149 new species and subspecies, 300 changes in nomenclature and as many changes and additions to values.

Mr. C. W. [redacted]ier of Appleton City, Mo., reports a set of 5 Red-tail Hawk taken April 3d, this year. Ye Editor has examined the eggs and there is no question as to identity. In another issue we will give half tone of a set taken this year by A. E. Price of Grant Park, Ill. These sets are the first I have heard of in 10 years of this size.

While beating an open glade in the great Cedar Swamp near Scottsville, N. Y., on Decoration Day this year, the Editor observed a pair of Passenger Pigeons feeding a single young bird not yet able to fly more than a few rods.

This is the first time I have noted them breeding and no records have come to my notice for Western New York for 20 years.

Review.

North American Birds Eggs by Chester A. Reed.

This work, now ready for delivery is a triumph of the printer's art and is in many respects the best work on N. Am. eggs ever published.

333 pages and index, profusely illustrated both with figures of the eggs and 70 plates of nests and eggs in situ.

Owing to the fine quality of paper used the illustrations make a fine showing.

The binding is both tasty and strong, an important point with works of reference.

The only adverse criticism the Editor would suggest is the omission of the figures giving ordinary range of sizes for each species. An average size, only, is given.

As the work has been brought fully up to date it is for the time being the only up to date complete check list available.

Publications Received.

Nature study, Huddersfield, England. Vol. XIII, Nos. 1, 2. 4 and 5.

American Ornithology, Vol IV, No. 5. Condor, Vol VI, No. 3. The Amateur Naturalist, Vol. I, No. 3.

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Red-headed Woodpecker	35
Red-headed Woodpecker, young male	30
Pine Grosbeak, male	50
Pine Grosbeak, young male	35
Pine Grosbeak, female	25
Snowflake	15
Bullock's Oriole, female	25
Prairie Horned Lark	30
Indigo Bunting	20
Purple Finch, female	15
Song Sparrow	75
Bluebird, young male	15
White-breasted Nuthatch	15
Chickadee	15
Hooded Warbler, pair	75
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Red-tail Hawk, young in down	75

I have only the above skins left and they ought to go quick at prices quoted.

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Hall, Palaeontotogy of New York, I, Organic Remains of Lower Division of N. Y. System, (Lower Silurian) 4to 361p, 100pl, 536 fig 5 75

——do do, vol. II Organic Remains of Lower Middle Division, (Middle Silurian) 4to, 370p, 104pl. 510 fig 5 75

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New York, Natural History Survey.

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20 % DISCOUNT will be allowed from above prices during July and and August. They must be closed out as I've no time to devote to my old business.

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An Illustrated Quarterly devoted to the Ornithology of the Great Lakes Region

ALEXANDER W. BLAIN, Jr., *Editor.*
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A MONTHLY PUBLICATION DEVOTED TO

OOLOGY, ORNITHOLOGY AND TAXIDERMY.

VOL. XXI. No. 7. ALBION, N. Y., JULY, 1904. WHOLE NO. 204

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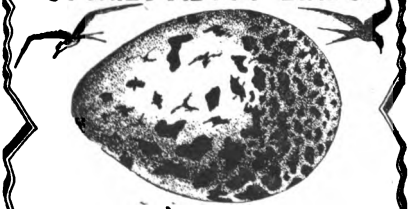
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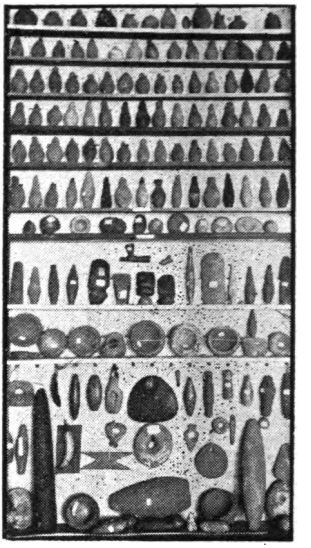
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THE OÖLOGIST.

VOL. XXI. NO. 7. ALBION, N. Y., JULY, 1904. WHOLE NO. 204

THE OÖLOGIST.

A Monthly Publication Devoted to

OÖLOGY, ORNITHOLOGY AND TAXIDERMY.

FRANK H. LATTIN, Publisher,
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ERNEST H. SHORT, Editor and Manager.

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An Ornithological Iron-clad.

Number One of the A. O. U. is not such a very interesting bird from the standpoint of the scientific ornithologist but in the trite language of my erstwhile friend Josh Billings, he is "an amoosin' cuss." I have gotten more downright hilarity out of watching the western Grebe than any other bird in the catalogue. He always reminds me of an Iron-clad Monitor under full steam, with nothing of him but an elongated neck and a mere speck of dark gray back sticking up out of the water. Below the long railroad bridge crossing Lake Pen'd Oreille (pronounced Pond deray) in northern Idaho this bird is a constant resident. They breed in the sedgy marshes surrounding the lake and in the winter season fish in the channel. For the lake has a channel and a current being only a widening of the Clark's Fork of the Columbia. Any day you may sit on the bridge and see from fifty to one hundred of them disporting themselves in the limpid water. They are not gunned very much, in fact it does very little good to gun them for like Johnny's woodchuck, they can get home faster than a gun can shoot. This is a fact that I had to acquire by stern experience. I wanted a few of them for mounting and took out my Smith for that purpose. After firing away about a ton of shot, and every time the shot got there the bird was over in another county, I concluded that as far as Mr. L. C. Smith and his justly famous gun was concerned, I would go hungry for Grebe a long time. I finally secured a few however by laying for them with a 22 rifle. Its about the most amusingly provoking thing in my experience to see one of these fellows tip up at the report of your gun and calmly disappear beneath the water. It is all

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done with such an air of deliberation and sang froid that you cannot get really angry. When he comes up it is always just out of range and he goes paddling away with a sort of grim chuckle that tells more plainly than words how much he enjoys the triumph.

It has been my pleasure to act the spy upon these birds while home building. It seems in other parts of the country they insist on anchoring their domicile out in the water three or four feet from the shore. Occassionally they do so here too, but most generally the nest is placed upon some little hummock or a deserted musk-rat home out in the marsh, sometimes many yards from the shore. One day I was beating up the quarters of a colony of red-wings that were habiting a big marsh not far from here and while sweeping the tules with my glass I allowed the binocular to rest for a moment upon one of these little islands. My eye was attracted by a movement upon the island. At first I thought it to be a musk-rat foraging but upon closer inspection I saw that it was a pair of western Grebe house building. For a better view, I crept closer.

The architecture seemed to be planned by the lady of the household and the principal occupation of the master was to gather the building material which he did with a great deal of zeal in the labor. With a continual chattering he would waddle in a top-heavy manner to the edge of the hummock and sieze upon floating bits of tule and drag them to the nesting site where they were raked with bill and toes into position by Mrs. Grebe. Noise seemed to be necessary to the proper arrangement of the nest for they both kept up a continual and not at all unmusical chatter, grading at times into a sort of grunt.

Many days after, I visited this same spot and found the house keeping fully established with three eggs to their credit. Upon seeing me approach the nesting bird hastily covered the eggs over with moss and dried tules and slid into the water, swimming away with one eye looking over her shoulder at the intruder of her home. I carefully uncovered the eggs using a long stick for the purpose and inspected the nest and contents. There was very little attempt at nest building, the tules being merely laid together and a depression hollowed out by the weight of the bird's own body. The eggs differed none from the ones usually found in the collections of every oologist excepting that they were much stained with the grasses upon which they lay. I was being watched with jealous eyes by the parents at some distance. I returned the covering and silently retired. Watching the hummock from a safe distance the birds soon returned and investigated the damage done. Satisfied with the result the hen snuggled down into the nest again where I left her. Weeks after I had occasion to return that way and found a fluffy brood of nine careening around in the open water. A shrill whistle sent every one of them to the bottom as quick as a flash of light. For a long time I waited for them to reappear in vain. At last tired with waiting I sought another part of the pond some hundreds of yards distant. To my surprise here were my truants. For an experiment I fired my shot gun at them, and at the report of the gun the water was entirely guiltless of bird life, so I said the youngsters can get under the protection of the water as expeditiously as their elders.

This is about all I can think of about the Western Grebe. Often when tired of my professional duties and out of harmony with things in general, I saunter down to the long bridge

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and sitting on a pier quietly smile at these happy-go-lucky fellows fishing in the deep blue water. Then go home and think that the old world is not such a bad place after all.

CHAS. S. MOODY,
Sand Point, Idaho.

Turkey Vulture in Illinois.

Through the varying seasons of many years, the stump of a gigantic sycamore tree has been rotting away—gradually melting back to the mother soil on a bank of the Salt Fork Creek.

The shell is yet solid but through a strange action of the elements, the heart is eaten out to its very roots. The form left is that of a wood-curbed well with the top three feet above the surface and the bottom six feet below.

Into this opening I peeped last summer and discovered in the strang retreat, a mother Vulture and two youngsters that looked very much like cotton balls in the great dark hole.

I would have enjoyed watching the first futile attempts of the young buzzards to get out. A later visit however, proved they had accomplisned the feat and I was forced to acknowledge the mother cleared of a charge of an error of judgement. A more typical nesting site I found in a mammoth oak tree in Lynn Grove. A violent storm of long ago had torn off a high limb seven feet from the ground, leaving a wound that time could not heal. It ate and grew and spread until the ground level was reached inside. I had visited this tree many times each season, and always wondering why "Cathartes aura" had not chosen it for a residence, I was never able to resist peeping into the roomy tree cave. Finally on May 8, 1903 my faith in "aura's" judgment was rewarded. At my approach a Vulture flopped out of the entrance revealing a pair of beautifully marked eggs. On the dates of April 27, 1898 and May 27, 1898, I found sets in positions very similar to the one just described. Both were in the bottoms of hollow living trees, the cavities reaching to the ground level. On June 9, 1903, I visited a lonely timber pond in another grove. In the center of the pond grew a large water-oak. Long since its life had flown and now it stands a shining naked monument, stripped by lightning bolts of its outer garments. A Vulture appeared from somewhere within its recesses and I climbed up to investigate. Twenty feet from the ground (or rather from the water) I found a cavity where the only opening was toward the sky. Two feet down in this safest of nesting places, two young buzzards lifted their heads and hissed at the intruder. I may have been the first unwelcome visitor at this hidden home that had been in use, perhaps for many years.

Thus I find the Illinois Vultures, and birds of a practical bend, not heeding fixed ancestral rules, but taking possession of advantageous sites, whether on the surface, above the level or below the surface of the ground.

ISAAC E. HESS,
Philo, Illinois.

Nesting of the Slate-colored Junco.

May 17, 1903 as I was going down the bed of a large gully looking for nests of the La. Water Thrush I flushed a bird from the bank beside me. Supposing of course that it was a La. Water Thrush. I hardly glanced at it but turned my attention to the nest and when I looked at the eggs I knew at once that I had found something new to me. Putting the eggs back I turned my attention to the bird and found that she had flown down the gully and was now making her way cautiously towards me and was soon but a short distance away in a

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small tree nervously working to the top branches and chipping. I had a very good view of her and saw at once that she was a Slate-colored Junco *(Junco hyemalis)* but to be sure I went back up the gully a short distance and she soon went back on the nest.

Approaching cautiously I had a very good view of her for about a minute when she left the nest again.

The nest was situated on and among the exposed roots of a tree and under the overhanging bank about 4 feet from the bottom of the gully. It was composed of dead leaves and grass lined with dead grass. The materials and structure of the nest were much like a nest of the Song Sparrow though the location was more like a Louisiana Water Thrush.

The eggs were four in number with a greenish ground color sparsely spotted with reddish brown. They reminded me somewhat of the Field Spaarow's eggs in color and markings but were much larger. Incubation was advanced and I left them in the nest. This is the first authentic record of this Junco nesting in Yates County, though Mr. C. F. Stone and I have before this seen them here in June which would seem to be good evidence that they do so.

VERDI BURTCH,
Branchport, N. Y.

Since receiving this I have seen a set of 4 very pretty eggs of this bird in the collection of Mr. C. N. Davis taken this spring a few miles from Branchport. They were found in a sod field in hollow in the soil. The bird is never very particular about situations for nesting. They are not rare in the hills of Chautaugua, Alleghany and Steuben counties, N. Y., and doubtless occur regularly in Yates.—*Ed.*

Suggestions.

Will not the editor who has already effected such a marked improvement in the Oologist raise a protest against the wanton destruction of birds in nesting time. Suppose the collector who flushed a Woodcock off her nest and killed her had found instead of eggs four young birds dead with cold and hunger would not it have marred the pleasure of the collecting trip. Contrast this with J. Warren Jacob's statement in his excellent treatise on Golden-winged Warbler that he never found it necessary to take the life of a bird to pursue his investigations and yet he has given us a life history seldom excelled.

And if Mr. Honecker had removed the full clutch of Spotted Sandpiper instead of leaving the parent to incubate a misfit of 3 the possibilities are that in a few days the old bird would have had another full set of 4 and one more young Actitis Macularia been spared to the world as well as three more eggs to a scientific collection.

A. E. PRICE.

Moth Proof Cabinets.

So many owners of collections are constantly fighting moth and dermestes pests that it might be of interest to note that neither will enter a box built of *cedar*. This was a well known fact to our grandparents, for in the olden houses remaining today we always find the cedar closet for hanging the furs and woolen clothing in, and the cedar chest for blankets.

Build your next cabinet out of cedar and watch the result.

HENRY B. KAEDING.

A Robin's Nest.

On June 23, 1902, I found a Robin's nest made completely of binder twine, no mud at all used in the construction of the nest. It was in a maple tree twelve feet from the ground. It was lined with fine grass. There was plenty of mud during the month.

O. H. PEASE,
Hope,
Kan.

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Large Sets of Great Horned Owl in a Cold Berth.

I have taken many sets of Great Horned Owl but never until this spring have I seen in this locality a set of more than 4.

On February 25, 1904, I took a set of 4 perfectly fresh, the thermometer did not go above 4 degrees above zero any time during the day and it had been zero weather for a week previous. They were about 50 feet up, big nest of sticks, etc., and a few dry leaves which were coated with snow and ice. The old bird left nest when about half way up. On going back on March 21st for second set was surprised to get set of 2 Red-tail Hawk in same nest that is very early for Red-tail here. Have you ever known of authentic set of 4 Great Horned Owl east of Mississippi? My experience has been that they are about equally divided between 2 and 3.

The set of 4 were taken in McHenry County, Illinois where I do most of my collecting.

C. M. ELDREDGE,
Chicago.

At the Fair.

An egg 12 inches long and 10 inches in diameter with a shell nearly one-quarter of an inch thick will be exhibited among the treasures of natural history by the government at the world's fair, St. Louis. It is an egg of the *Æpyornis Maximus* and was recently purchased in Paris by Dr. E. W. True of the Smithsonian institution. Specimens of these eggs are very rare, having sold in London as high as $1,000.

Compared with other eggs some idea of its immensity may be had. It will hold the contents of six ostrich eggs, or 148 hen's eggs, or 30,000 humming bird's eggs. Little is known of the birds from which these eggs come. Most of the eggs are found in the sands and swamps of southern parts of Madagascar. One specimen was found afloat on the ocean, after a hurricane, bobbing serenely up and down.

—R. F. Greene in Editorial Notes, Phil' West, Vol. 26 No. 3.

Albinos.

Mr. C. W. Prier, of Appleton City, Mo., reports a set of English Sparrow, containing 3 Albino eggs.

Mr. Verdi Burtch of Branchport, N. Y., has a set of five perfect albinos of this bird. The editor secured a very fine set of four Albino Bluebirds from a pair of birds that had a first set of normal blue eggs destroyed by the untimely freeze April 20th, this year. The set of Albinos were laid May 8th to 11th in the same nest and are a pure, glossy white. Would pass for a large set of Downy Woodpeckers.

Abnormalties.

Mr. Verdi Burtch has two nicely spotted sets of Wilson's Thrush. On June 11th while out for a Yates county tramp with Mr. C. F. Stone, the editor found a set of Indigo Bunting containing two spotted eggs. One of these was heavily *wreathed* with cinnamon spots at larger end.

Review.

Discovery of the Breeding Area of Kirtland's Warbler. A pamphlet issued by the University of Michigan, being excerpt from Bull. Mich. Ornithological Club, Vol. V, pp. 3-13.

It puts the Kirtland's Warbler matter in convenient form and the plates are more distinct and show better detail than they did in the Bulletin.

Publications Received.

American Ornithology, Vol. IV, No. 6.

Nature Study, Vol. XIII, No. 6.

Collector's Note Book, Vol. II, No. 1.

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A NEW EDITION

—OF—

Lattin's 'Standard Catalogue' of North American Birds Eggs

Owing to changes and additions to the A. O. U. check list and the inevitable shifting in the relative value of the eggs of many of our birds, advanced collectors are asking for a new edition of the above work. That the prices may be the *Standard* as heretofore all collectors are requested to make suggestions and criticisms relative to temporary prices following the A. O. U. No. of each species as listed below. Prices will then be adjusted as seems fairest to all and a new edition will be issued. Address, Editor OOLOGIST, Chili, N. Y.

1	$ 35	63	40	118	25
2	50	64	40	119	50c *25
3	25	65	30	120	25
4	15	66	5 00	120a	25
5	35	67	40	120b	50
6	10	68		120c	35
7	1 50	69	10	121	75
8	5 00	70	08	122	25
9	*1 50	71	10	123	1 25
10	2 00	72	15	123a	1 00
11	*75	73	2 00	123b	35
12	50	74	12	124	1 25
13	20	75	30	125	50
13a	1 00	76	1 00	126	25
14	2 00	77	10	127	60
15	3 00	78	50	128	1 00
16	1 25	79	35	129	1 50
17	3 00	80	12	130	75c. *25
18	3 00	81		131	2 50
19	2 50	82	5 00	132	20
20	2 50	82.1	3 00	133	40
21	3 00	83	3 00	133a	50
23	4 00	84	5 00	134	1 00
24	5 00	85		134a	3 00
25	5 00	86	60	135	75c. *50
26	4 00	86b	2 00	136	*25
27	35	86c	2 50	137	75
28	75	87		138	*20
29	50	88		139	50
30	20	89		140	25
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31	35	91		141.1	*35
32	25	92	1 50	142	35
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35	50	93.1	3 00	145	
36	2 50	94	3 00	146	35
37	50	95	3 50	147	1 25
38	1 50	96		148	75c *60
39	5 00	97		149	75
40	40	98		150	1 25
40a	1 50	99	5 00	151	75
41	1 50	100		152	1 00
42	75	101	3 50	153	2 00
42.1	2 00	102		154	*40
43	1 25	103	3 00	155	*1 00
44	1 00	104	50	156	
45	3 00	105	2 00	157	5 00
46		105.1	3 00	158	2 50
47	60	106	25	159	50
48		106.1	2 50	160	25
49	30	107	2 50	161	1 00
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51	20	108.1	2 50	163	2 00
52	2.00	109	3 00	164	*50
53	30	110		165	
54	30	111	5 00	166	2 00
55	1 50	112	3 00	167	2 50
56	25	113	3 50	168	50
57	5 00	113.1	3 00	169	
58	20	114	2 00	169a	
59	35	114.1	5 00	169.1	
60	2 00	115	1 75	170	
60.1		115.1	5 00	171	*1 00
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62	3 00	117	35	171.1	1 00

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174	2 00
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183	2 50
184	35
185	3 00
186	*50
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189	
190	75
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209	
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211b	35
211c	20
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216	3 00
216.1	
217	20
218	30
219	12
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223	75
224	75
225	50
226	50
227	*1 75
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232	2 50
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235	2 00
236	3 00
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242.1	

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250	3 00
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252	*30
253	*2 50
254	3 50
255	2 50
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256a	
257	
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258a	40
259	
260	*25
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262	3 00
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264	1 50
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266	2 00
267	*30
268	
269	15
269.1	2 50
270	4 00
271	*40
272	2 00
272a	
273	15
274	1 50
275	*25
276	*30
277	1 00
277a	75
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282	
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283.1	2 00
284	3 00
285	*25
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320b	
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322.1	
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326	75
327	10 00
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330	10 00
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334	2 00
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337b	60
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339b	1 00
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341	1 00
342	50
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344	
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346	2 50
347	*60
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349	7 50
350	
351	2 00
352	4 00
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354	6 00
354a	6 00
354b	10 00
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357	3 00
357a	
358	8 00
358.1	*50
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359.1	*25
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360a	25
360b	30
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366		35
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368b		2 00
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375e		
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388.1		
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390		20
390.1		
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392		
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393a		
393b		1 00
393c		75
393d		1 00
393e		75
393f		
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400		1 50
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401a		
401b		

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474e	35
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474g	75
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580c	
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581a	35
581b	25
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581g	
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652b	
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654a	
655	75
656	1 50
656a	2 50
657	50
658	2 25
659	20
660	1 50
661	75
662	2 00
663	1 50
663a	3 00
664	2 50
665	2 50
666	1 50
667	50
668	2 00
669	5 00
670	
671	50
672	3 00
672a	3 00
673	30
674	20
675	1 00
675a	1 50
676	35
677	75
678	
679	2 50
680	1 00
681	15
681a	25
681b	1 00
681c	25
681d	15
681e	50
682	
682.1	1 00
683	08
683a	10
684	50
685	1 50
685a	85
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700	3 00
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711	2 00
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713b	
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717	75
717a	60
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718	12
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719	25
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719c	25
719d	35
719e	35
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720	
721	10
721a	10
721b	10
722	1 00
722a	1 00
722b	
723	
724	1 00
725	05
725a	12
725b	15
725c	12
725.1	
726	1 25
726a	1 50
726b	1 50
726c	1 25
726d	
727	40
727a	75
727b	
727c	75
727d	
728	1 25
729	35
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731a	50
732	75
733	50
733a	
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734	2 00
735	15
735a	60
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736	15
736a	50
737	1 00
738	50
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740	1 25
740a	
740b	75
740c	75
741	75
741a	50
741b	75
742	60
742a	75
743	25
743a	15
743b	
744	1 50
744.1	
745	75
746	40
746a	75
747	
748	2 00
748a	2 00
749	2 00
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751a	35
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754	1 50
755	06
756	12
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758	15
758a	40
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759	1 50
759a	1 00
759b	35
759c	1 50
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761	03
761a	10
761b	04
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763	2 50
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764	*75
765	*10
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766	05
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767	10
767a	
767b	
768	12

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BULLETIN

OF THE

Michigan Ornithological Club.

An Illustrated Quarterly devoted to the Ornithology of the Great Lakes Region

ALEXANDER W. BLAIN, Jr., *Editor.*
J. CLAIRE WOOD,
ADOLPHE B. COVERT, *Associates.*

Each issue of the Bulletin is filled with notes fresh from the field and museum. A large corps of field ornithologists are among its contrioutors. which makes the Bulletin indispensable to all students interested in the bird-life in the region about the Great Lakes. The prospects for 1904 point toward a greater increase in size and general interest.

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OOLOGY, ORNITHOLOGY AND TAXIDERMY.

VOL. XXI. No. 8. ALBION, N. Y., AUG., 1904. WHOLE No. 205

WANTS, FOR SALES AND EXCHANGES.

Brief Special announcements "Wants," "Exchanges," "For Sales," inserted in this department for 25 cents per 25 words. Notices over 25 words charged at the rate of 1-2 cent for each additional word. No notice inserted for less than 25 cents. Terms, cash with order.
Strictly first-class specimens will be accepted in payment at 1-3 list rates.

What's Your Number?

Examine the number following your name on the wrapper of this month's OOLOGIST. It denotes when your subscription expired or will expire.

205 your subscription expires with this issue
207 " " " " Oct., 1904
209 " " " " Dec., 1904
212 " " " " Mar., 1905
257 " " " " Dec., 1908

Intermediate numbers can easily be determined. If we have you credited wrong we wish to rectify.

Entered as second-class matter December 21, 1903, at the post office at Albion, N. Y., under the Act of Congress of March 3. 1879.

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Parula Warbler, n-4	60
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Man-O'War Bird, 1-1	40
Booby, 1-2	1 25
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Black Vulture, 1-2, 1-2, 1-2	60
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Chuck-will's-Widaw, 1-2, 1-2, 1-2, 1-2, 1-2	1 10
Palmer's Thrasher, 1-4	1 25
Groove-billed Ani, 1-7	1 50
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Bohemian Waxwing	1 50
American Crow	1 00
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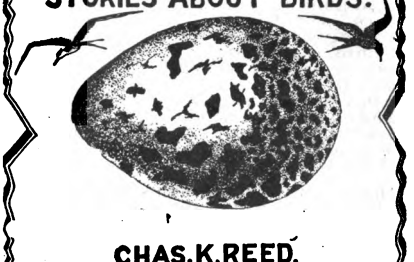
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Horned Grebe, 1-5, 2-8	07
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Bittern, 1-4	20
Little Brown Crane, 1-2	5 00
Virginia Rail, 1-10	10
Sora Rail, 2-6, 1-7, 1-8	03
Wilson Phalarope, 2-4	30
Bartram's Sandpiper, 1-4	20
Spotted Sandpiper, 1-4	07
Canada Ruffed Grouse, 1-8, 1-9	20
Prairie Hen, 1-9, 1-7, 1-13, 1-14	08
Sharp-tailed Grouse, 1-10, 1-11, 1-12	25
Marsh Hawk, 1-7, 1-5	15
Cooper's Hawk, 1-4,	10
Red-tailed Hawk, 1-4, 1-2, 5-3	18
Swainson Hawk, 1-4, 2-3, 1-2	20
Broad-winged Hawk, 2-4, 5-3, 50c	75
American Rough-legged Hawk, 1-3	1 00
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Osprey, 2-4	50
Long-eared Owl, 1-7, 2-5, 1-4	15
Short-eared Owl, 1-7, 1-5, 2-4	20
Arctic Horned Owl, 1-3	1 00
Burrowing Owl, 1-5	07
Belted Kingfisher, 1-5, 1-6	10
Blue Jay, 1-6, n	03
Red-winged Blackbird, 1-4	02
Bronzed Grackle, 1-4	02
Chestnut collared Longspur, 1-5	15
Henslow Sparrow, 1-4	75
White-throated, do 1-4	15
Claycolored, do, 2-4, 1-3	15
Swamp Sparrow, 1-5	10
Arctic Towhee, 1-4	25
Tree Swallow, 1-4	05
Barn, do, 1-6	26
Loggerhead Shrike, 1-7	04
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Screech Owl, gray	50
Least Bittern	50
Bronzed Grackle	25
Cedar Waxwing	20
White-rumped Sandpiper	75
Killdeer	30
Least Sandpiper	25
Red-headed Woodpecker	35
Red-headed Woodpecker, young male	30
Pine Grosbeak, male	50
Pine Grosbeak, young male	35
Pine Grosbeak, female	25
Snowflake	15
Bullock's Oriole, female	25
Prairie Horned Lark	30
Indigo Bunting	20
Purple Finch, female	15
Song Sparrow	75
Bluebird, young male	15
White-breasted Nuthatch	15
Chickadee	15
Hooded Warbler, pair	75
Canadian Warbler, male	25
Black-throated Green Warbler, male	20
Black-poll Warbler, female	15
Red-tail Hawk, young in down	75

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THE OÖLOGIST.

VOL. XXI. NO. 8. ALBION, N. Y., AUG., 1904. WHOLE NO. 205

THE OÖLOGIST.

A Monthly Publication Devoted to

OÖLOGY, ORNITHOLOGY AND TAXIDERMY.

FRANK H. LATTIN, Publisher,
ALBION, N. Y.

ERNEST H. SHORT, Editor and Manager.

Correspondence and items of interest to the student of Birds, their Nests and Eggs, solicited from all.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION:

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Sample copies.....5c each
The above rates include payment of postage.

Each subscriber is given a card good for a Want, Exchange or For Sale Notice. (This card is redeemable at any time within one year from date thereon.)

Subscriptions can begin with any number. Back numbers of the OOLOGIST can be furnished at reasonable rates. Send stamp for descriptions and prices.

☞Remember that the publisher must be notified by letter when a subscriber wishes his paper stopped, and all arrearages must be paid.

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12 lines in every inch. Seven inches in a column, and two columns to the page.
Nothing inserted for less than 25 cents. No "special rates," 5 cents per line is "net," "rock bottom," "inside," "spot cash" rate from which there is no deviation and no commission to agents. If you wish to use 5 lines or less space, it will cost you 25 cents; 100 lines, $5.00; 1000 lines, $50.00. "Trade" (other than cash) advertisements will be accepted by special arrangement only and at rates from double to five times cash rates. Due Bills and Cards payable in advertising will be honored only at regular rates in force at the date of issuance of said bill or card.
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ERNEST H. SHORT, Editor and Manager.
Chili, Monroe Co., N. Y

My Song Sparrow.

Three years ago late in the spring of the year, my boy and I were walking beside a muddy brook, overlooking the fields near the town of Malden, Massachusetts, and, as we were looking for birds' nests, I heard what I supposed was a Song Sparrow, that had young birds. I told the boy we would try the same place next spring earlier, and see if we could discover the nest.

Early the next spring my wife and I went down to the little brook and discovered under one of the three tussocks of grass, a black hole, which I supposed was the work of the bird of the previous year, on visiting it later I found a nest and five eggs inserted in the black hole, or so called, the cellar of her home.

The next fall I tore the nest out and the following spring, which was last year, I discovered on Lexington Day, the 19th of April, a nest and four eggs, which did not resemble the nest or eggs of the previous year as they were more like the Swamp Sparrows.

On consulting Mr. Webster, the Naturalist, he pronounced them the Song Sparrow. I shall watch the same cavity this year with much interest.

EDWARD S. COOMBS,
Malden, Mass.

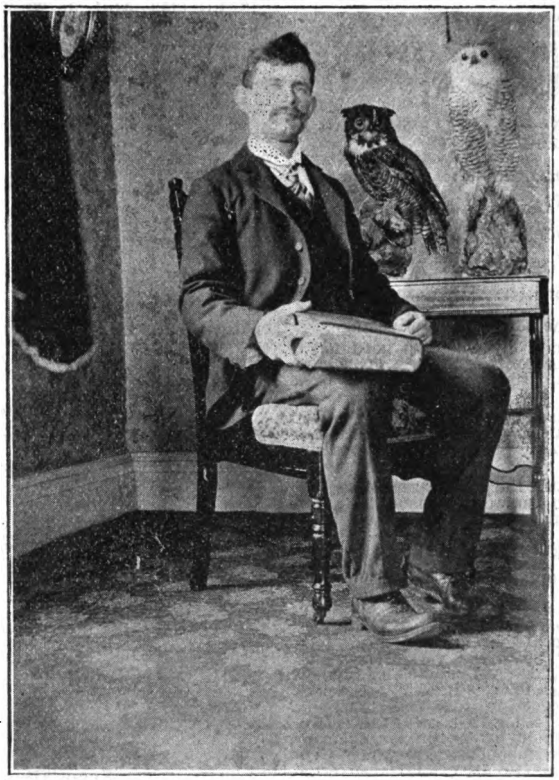
From Ohio.

Owing to the stirring up our Game Wardens gave the milliners last year, I am thankful to say, I have seen more flowers and less of birds used on ladies hats this winter.

If the Wardens in other states would follow the example of the Ohio Game Commission in such work as they did last year it would mean the stoppage of the slaughter of our birds to decorate? hats with.

O. DAVIE, JR,
Columbus, O.

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Whoo! Whoo! Whoo! and Who?

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Woodcock in Hard Luck.

In our locality April 13th is usually the time to look for full sets of Woodcock eggs. This year as in others was no exception, although if you remember on that date and the next day we were visited by a tremendous snowfall to the extent of about 8 inches, which was partially melted by the sun and froze hard again during the night, and two days later another snow-fall occured. Saturday morning found me on the Cattaraugus Reservation, which is an ideal locality for the nesting of this bird. The ground was completely covered with about 5 inches of crust covered snow. In company with a couple of Indian boys, we immediately began our search for the Woodcock or their traces. We soon found the tracks of a pair where they had been feeding or trying to, around partly frozen water holes. We flushed the birds and began looking the ground or rather snow over carefully for the nests, but found none in that vicinity, but on following the back tracks of a single bird, which evidently were made the previous day, we found after following those tracks at least a quarter of a mile, the spot where the bird had evidently started on his walk to the water holes. On examining the place nothing but a slight depression was found, appearing somewhat more dirty than the otherwise clean snow. We were begining to think that the bird had taken this place, which was a small clump of bushes as a refuge from the snow storms, when it was suggested, that perhaps after all the nest might be under the hard frozen snow. No sooner suggested, than we all were down on our knees, taking turns at melting the snow with our breath. After a few minutes we were rewarded by the sight of one egg, and by continuing we found a fine set of four eggs, the first egg lying directly in the middle and on top of the other three eggs, and being separated by a layer of at least an inch of snow. From this I take it that when the first snow storm came, the bird had only three eggs laid and had a hard time keeping on the eggs for any great length of time, as the Woodcock lives on worms in the soft marshy ground, and consequently could not remain a long time on the eggs, or the vast amount of falling snow made the bird continually shift until by constantly moving the eggs were covered with snow, then the next day the other egg was deposited as before mentioned, when the last snow-fall occured, which the bird could not withstand and finally deserted nest and eggs. We found several more sets in the same way on that day, and in each case the eggs were found as described.

They are beautifully marked and colored from light to dark shades and vary greatly in size.

EDWARD REINECKE, Buffalo, N. Y.

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Photo of Woodcock on nest taken by Edward Reinecke, April 13, 1902.

It admirably illustrates the effect of protective coloration in natural haunts of the bird. Only the closest scrutiny will bring out the bird in the picture and it would be even more difficult to pick her out in reality with a constantly changing light and the natural blending of harmonious colors.

A Sunday Morning Ramble.

As we are not all blessed with a lot of worldly treasures, we cannot always pick the days that we best like for a stroll in the woods, but must take that stroll whenever we can get it. So that is why I am here to record a "Sunday's Ramble."

On April 17th of the present year, I found myself up early and on my way to the depot to board an electric car for a chain of sand hills at Lynnhaven Inlet on Cheaspeake Bay, ranging from one quarter to half a mile in width. One side being fringed by a small stream along the bank of which, in some places, the sand is very steep, but in other places spots of wooded land, with marshy damp soil is found, while on the hills we find only scrub pine, farther from the beach, scrub oak becomes plentiful, and much of the sand is grown over with grapevines and briers. Here we find Cardinals but no nest, may be they escaped my notice as I did not search very long for them.

My little friend, the Carolina Wren is also here for I can hear the song of at least three at once, but they keep pretty well out of sight. Perhaps they are nesting by this date, but have not found any eggs. Without moving any further I can hear the pleasant song of a Pine Warbler as he swings gently, to and fro, on the topmost bough of a small pine. Here is his

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mate with a mouthfull of material that she is carrying to a pine near by. A nest, nearly complete; perhaps a set for some future day.

The next is the song of a Maryland Yellow-throat coming from a part of the marshy border of the stream. No nest as yet for the season is not far enough advanced for our summer visitors to begin nesting, but then I can enjoy his song as he flits nervously about and utters it at intervals of a few seconds. Here goes a Belted Kingfisher flying as if mad, also another, uttering his discordant notes; as he flies within a few feet of where I am standing, my attention is attracted by the always pleasant notes of the Carolina Chickadee, coming from a small cluster of pines to my right. Search as I may there is no nest to be found, although it must be under way of construction somewhere near, even if there are no eggs yet.

Imagine my delight, when upon rapping on a stump, Mrs. Brown-headed Nuthatch thrusts her head through the neat entrance to her nesting shanty, but picture my disapointment when I see but two eggs, fresh and warm, laying in a nest of pine seed leaves and feathers. I leave them for the uneasy pair that are flying around my head and giving vent to their displeasure.

Many Rough-winged Swallows are flying around over the water and sand, with now and then a specimen of the White-bellied, only a migrant, but very commonly observed at certain times of the season. Now we behold a fine specimen of the Southern Hairy Woodpecker drumming away at leisure on the limb of a dead pine some thirty feet distant. Flickers are numerous flying here and there, they appear to be very restless.

Boat-tailed Grackles and Red-winged Blackbirds are frequently seen and heard to utter their discordant notes. Crows are common, both the Common and Fish, one nest found but not examined, it being too high for a climb.

We note the Field, Chipping and Grasshopper Sparrows all pretty common; the first two remaining with us throughout the summer season, while the Grasshopper leaves us very shortly for the north. One Red-shouldered Hawk observed soaring away at leisure far above the top of the tallest of the pines, while several Sparrow Hawks are mated in different parts of the tract before us. They may have nests in some of the old Flicker's nests later in the season.

In addition to the above we observe several Mockingbirds, two Mourning Doves and Turkey Vultures soaring away far above. Towhees are frequently observed, with a few Bluebirds. Several varieties of Gulls are plentiful and a few Ducks are seen. While on returning home by the same route, a nest of the Osprey, placed on the broken end of a pine stump about fifty feet high is located; nest occupied last season and is in repair for the present. A little farther and we find Meadowlarks by the dozen, probably not so common later flying around over the fields. Chimney Swifts are abundant, having been arriving steadly from the south for the last half month.

R. P. SMITHWICK,
Norfolk, Va.

From A Worcester, Mass., Newspaper.

RIGHT OF SEARCH BILL IS BROUGHT INTO USE.

CLOSE TIME MENTIONED IN CHARGE.

The right of search law passed at the last session of the legislature was given its first trial in Worcester yesterday, when chief deputy John F. Luman of Palmer and Deputy commissioners D. F. Shea of Ware, and A. D. Putnam of Spencer visited Charles K. Reed's

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taxidermist's store and workshop on Thomas street.

They found 69 partridges, 27 quail and half a dozen pheasants, some of them mounted, and the skins of others ready for mounting.

Mr. Reed was summoned to appear in Central street Court this morneng on the charge of having game birds in his possession in the close season. The charge of having game birds in possession with intent to sell will also be brought against the defendent.

The attention of the Massachusetts fish and game commission was directed to Mr. Reed by a New York organization for the protection of birds. The New York society discovered an advertisement for quail Mr. Reed is running in the Oologist, published in Albion, N. Y.

Mr. Reed's explanation is that he is running the advertisement to buy scientific skins of the birds from taxidermist's to mount and send to St Louis to the World's fair, where he is showing a collection. He maintains that he does not buy the game birds. He says he has no knowledge that such a practice is violation of the law, and that if it is he will be glad to learn it.

The fact that very few people know how to remove the skin of a bird to prepare it for mounting, indicates to their minds that the advertisement was not for skins only, they say.

The deputy commissioners maintain that there should be no distinction between killing game birds out of season for mounting purposes and for the pot. The bird is killed, and it is to protect the bird that they are seeking to stop the practice.

Judge Utley Rebukes Three Game Wardens.

"It seems to me that state officers, men appointed as fish and game wardens ought to know the difference between a crow and a quail or a bluebird and a sparrow. I have not the power of appointment in that respect but I think if I did possess that power I would appoint men who knew their business. "There is no case against this man."

After delivering a stinging rebuke to three deputy fish and game wardens in the central district court this morning Judge Samuel Utley discharged Charles K. Reed, taxidermist at 75 Thomas street who was charged with violating the provisions of Sections 2 and 3 of Chapter 92 fish and game laws.

Reed was discharged after a long hearing during which Webster Thayer of Thayer & Cobb argued for him. Jere R. Kane appeared for the government. During the trial Atty. Thayer remarked that if the defendent had bird skins in his store they were not birds; if a man wore leather shoes they were not cows.

Deputy fish and game warden John F. Luman of Palmer testified that he and Debuty fish and game wardens A. D. Putnam of Spencer and Dennis F. Shea of Ware visited Reed's store yesterday afternoon and found specimens of stuffed quail there. Witness said he visited the store Saturday after seeing an advertisement in which the defendant offered to buy quail. He asked Reed why he did not get his quail from breeders and Reed replied that it was now the close season. Witness claimed that men in the store were skinning about 20 quail. The "quail" were imported. French partridge which are on sale in the markets all the year.

Under cross examination the witness admitted that the advertisement was for skinned quail and bobwhites. He said two dozen were advertised for by Reed.

The law which Reed was charged with violating states that no person shall have game birds in his possession. The defense interpreted the

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law, as meaning birds and not *bird skins* and ruled that the state officers had no right to arrest a man for keeping stuffed birds any more than they could for keeping any kind of a stuffed animal.

Judging from this attack on Mr. Reed it would seem that some people who are looking after the interests of our birds become so zealons in the pursuit of violations of the game laws that they overlook the fact that the possession of a scientific bird skin *does not* violate any law.

We regret the trouble the little ad at the end of this article brought to Mr. Reed and print the matter in full as it is of great importance.

Had there been proof that the skins were taken out of season the matter would then have been a case against the collector and *not* against Mr. Reed as, after scientific preparation they ceased to be "game."

And again,—many of the states grant special permits for this work even in the closed season—hence the zealous members of our "Bird Protection" societies should "look twice before they leap" thereby saving a lot of trouble for all concerned.

No ad of this character would be printed in the *Oologist* were it remotely suspected that any but scientific skins collected in accordance with the laws of the collectors state, were desired and we supposed everyone in the position of the complainant in this case, (we understand it was the Editor of a prominent New York City Sporting Magazine) would so understand.

Following is the ad' referred to:

WANTED.—Skins of Bob-white (Am. Quail). Cash or exchange. Can use several dozen. Address at once. CHAS. K. REED, Worcester, Mass. Taxidermist.

Editor.

North American Birds' Eggs.

CHESTER A. REED.

The Quail Trap, June 9, 1904.—As the oldest working field oologist in the country, it is becoming for me to say a long word of praise for the latest addition to the literature of bird's eggs. My shelves contain everything extant or procurable on this subject. I corresponded with Dr. Brewer, the closet naturalist, who first published colored lithographs of American eggs, and I have stacks of letters from Major Bendire, presentation copies of whose life histories are now before me. Further reminders of this lamented curator are also close at hand in the shape of sets of American raven, painted partridge, sage cock, Bendire's Thrasher, white pelican and pigmy owl. It is strange that most pretentious works on eggs are incomplete. Both Brewer's and Bendire's treatises were issued by the government and both authors died with their congenial tasks unfinished. Brewer's American Oology is out of print and becoming rare among collectors. Bendire's Life Histories may be completed by Dr. Ralph in the near future. The Jones Sisters' de luxe Nests and Eggs of Southern Ohio is too expensive for use and the copper plates are now destroyed. One of the authors of the magnificent work also died before the hand-coloring was done. Thomas G. Gentry's pleasing plates of Pennsylvania nests and eggs embraced but few species and left much to be desired. And so on down from the "bigwig bird doctors" to the lesser lights of oology. There have been several editions of Davies to make new additions and insert species not figured at first. Nor must we forget the dead or suspended Ornithologist and Oologist, once printed in this city, The Oologist, The Western Oologist, The Texas Oologist, The Maine Oologist, and kindred publications. Later we will include all these ephemera in a bibliography of American and foreign eggs books. Maynard and Ingersoll's praiseworthy attempts at egg-portraiture were both unfinished. So we welcome the new-comer to our library. Reed's North Amirican Birds' Eggs may be described by the four C's—crisp, compact, comprehen-

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sive and complete. The text does not describe every known phrase of color, nor deviations from the usual design. All this verbiage is purposely left out, and only the common type given. It is left to our own field experience to note the variations and additions which only emphasize the common specimens here submitted as the rule. I did not think before this excellent handbook that uncolored plates of eggs could so perfectly represent the object sought to be figured. The reproductions show the most suitable selections from a very large series. The photographs are so good that any water colorist with a touch or two of a brush to these cuts could show us the egg itself to the life. As it is, every species is at once recognized without the accompanying text and color guide. C. L. R.

Norwich Bulletin (Conn.)

Albino Robins.

On or about April 15, 1904 a pair of Robins (Merula migratoria) arrived here from the south and took up their summer home in a large field surrounded with fir and small spruce bushes. The male bird is pure snow-white, while the female has a lovely pink breast but is white otherwise. This is the first pair of albinos that ever came under my notice. A beautiful albino crow was taken here last summer.

S. G. JEWETT,
Fredericton, N. B.,
Canada.

EDITORIAL.

The Person depieted in our frontispiece is in good company

All subscribers, except his personal acquaintances, are invited to guess his name.

Laying in another bird's nest. Data. Brewers Blackbird, set ⅓, collected June 3, 1902 by H. F. Duprey at Bodega, Califoania. Two of the eggs in this set are Brewers Blackbird, the other egg is a typical one of California Shrike and unquestionably laid by that bird. Since description of nest calls for mud, the Shrike must have been the intruder.

The display of eggs of Pennsylvania birds in Agricultural building at St. Louis was loaned by J. Warren Jacobs whose exhibit at Chicago attracted much attention.

On June 7, 1901, Mr. E. W. Springer of Owatonna, Minn. took a double (two story) nest of Yellow Warbler the lower story containing two eggs of Warbler and two of Cowbird and the upper one six eggs of Warbler and two of Cowbird. This is the largest nestful ever brought to my notice. The set was lightly marked.

REVIEW.

"The making of an Herbarium" by Willard N. Clute, Editor of "The Fern Bulletin" published by Chas. D. Pendell, Binghamton, N. Y. The sub-title of this work "A complete guide as to methods of procedure and requirements" accurately describes this well written illustrated pamphlet which should be in the hand of all beginners in botany. The price, only 25c, puts it within reach of all.

Publications Received.

American Ornithology, Vol. IV, No. 7.

Nature study, Vol. XIII, No. 7.

Bulletin of the Michigan Ornithological Club, Vol. V, No. 2. The Amateur Naturalist, Vol. I. No. 4. Condor, Vol. VI, No. 4..

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J. F. Powell,

m. 6. t. Waukegan, Ill.

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WALTER F. WEBB,

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Manager of Oologist.

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CHAS. K. REED,
Worcester, Mass.

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OF THE

Michigan Ornithological Club.

An Illustrated Quarterly devoted to the Ornithology of the Great Lakes Region

ALEXANDER W. BLAIN, Jr., *Editor.*
J. CLAIRE WOOD,
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VOL. XXI. No. 9. ALBION, N. Y., SEP., 1904. WHOLE No. 206

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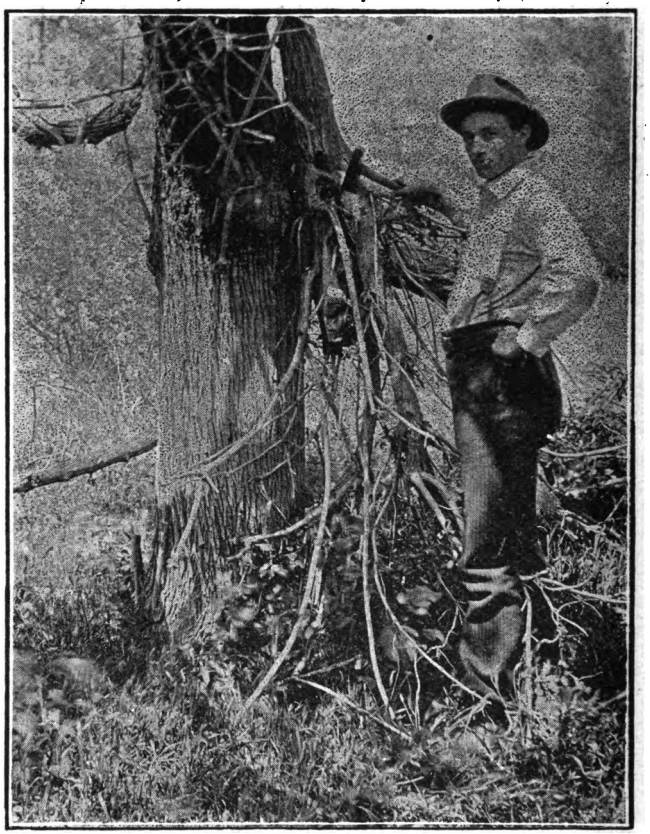
By HARRY H. DUNN.

For a good many years I have been interested in the nesting habits of these two birds, probably because both breed in much the same localities and because the nests of both have been, up to within a season or two at most, a sort of chinese puzzle to me and I have found very few of them. The finding of a Bush-tit's nest is often a matter of patient watching until the parent birds become accustomed to your presence, when they will usually go to the nest. But a wren is quite otherwise constituted, and while she will scold you while you are removing the eggs from her home, she will not, unless she does not see you at all, go to her nest while the collector is near. In this respect Parkman's Wren is different from Vigor's Wren, whose eggs I have collected in this locality, in that the latter will invariably go to the nest when watched and not even try to conceal her home from prying eyes.

In the oak-covered flats, the bottoms grown up to Sycamores and even back in the slopes where the pines begin, Parkman's Wren is an abundant bird, everywhere much in evidence, cheering the otherwise quiet hills with its short but sweet song, and nesting commonly in the dead trees (and in woodpecker's holes in some of the live ones,) throughout its range. In the accompanying photo a typical nesting site is well shown. On the day in which this picture was taken, my friend, Mr. H. A. Bradford, of Placentia, and myself were out prospecting for Wrens and Bush-tits, when he found the nest here presented.

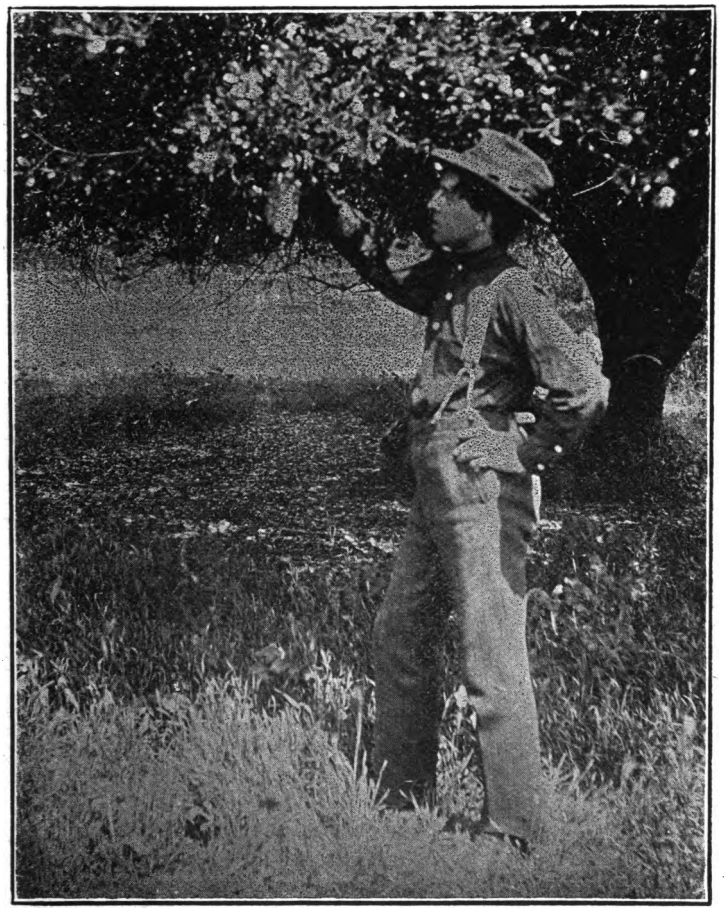
Some wandereing camper had cut from a sturdy elder tree one of its largest limbs, leaving it to hang by a portion of the stout bark. At some time

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previous to the cutting off of the limb a woodpecker had cut two connecting holes in the thickest part of the branch. Entering from the upper of these two holes, the Wren had built a platform within and thereon deposited her seven eggs, all fresh and carefully removed to the growing collection of my friend. Around on the other side of the tree there was an unfinished Woodpecker's nest which we investigated, succeeding which he proceeded to chop out the lesser bird and in resting between strokes of the hatchet the camera caught him. The usual bunch of small sticks is shown protruding from the hole in the tree and without these there is very little use in chopping into the nest of one of these birds, for, even though the nest be new and the birds ever so anxious there is every probability that it will contain no eggs. They seem to complete this lattice work of twigs after the full number of the set has been laid rather than when the horsehair lining is put in, and it is a sure protection against mice and snakes and possibly against the English Sparrow, if that pest ever gets so far west as this. There are literally thousands of such trees as the one here shown scattered over southern California and it is no exaggeration to say that in nearly every

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one of them, especially in suitable localities, there will be found a Wren's nest during the months from the last week of April to the end of June—and possibly later. It has been my experience that sets of seven predominate in the eggs laid by this bird, but frequently sets of eight and nine are found. Small sets of five and six are usually incomplete and if left may or may not be filled, just as the bird happens to feel about it. I have left small sets after having chopped a huge hole in the tree and had them completed; on the other hand, I have left them in a nest scarcely disturbed from its first condition and found them abandoned when I came again. The greatest number of sets of this Wren that I ever found in one day was nine, and they ranged in size from seven to nine eggs, all fresh, all easily collected and all safely blown, a feat I have not equaled though I have taken many sets since. This was in 1902, I believe though I am not sure, and on about the 20th of May. The little red eggs of this bird are not nearly so fragile as those of many another small bird of similar region and size—probably

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they are purposely tougher so that any accidental rolling against the woody sides of the nest will not break them.

But the nests of the Bush-tit are quite different even though the two birds are often near neighbors in their nest building. From the willow-covered lowlands that border on the coast to the first beginning of the pines will be found the restless, noisy little Bush-tits, the dull grays of their plumage intergrading well with the foliage of the trees and brush through which they hunt insects the whole day long. Most of the Bush-tits, however, retreat to the oak-groves of the hill-sides as the breeding season comes on and there remain until well into the fall when they with their broods scatter out over a greater area in search of food. In the other photo shown herewith, the writer of these lines has just discovered a nest, which an inquisitive finger has told him is full of eggs, placed out among the small branches on the extreme end of an oak limb some six feet from the ground. This was about thirty feet from the site of the Wren's nest just described and on the same bit of flat land in the bottom of a canyon grown up to various trees. This nest as may be seen at a glance at the photo, was a very long one even for this famous builder of pendulous nests, and when one of these is hidden in an oak tree in the manner in which most small birds know how to hide their nests, it is no snap to find it.

Sets are most usually of from seven to nine eggs, the latter rarely, while some birds, nesting in the same locality year after year, lay but five or six, never more. Ninety per cent of the nests, however, contain seven eggs when the sets are full, and so downy and finely made are these nests that hardly a single egg is ever broken either by the wind or by the birds themselves, but I might add that a good many are broken by me in getting them out of these nests for they are the most easily broken egg in the world, barring none. In fact about the only way to get them out of one of the long, bottle-shaped nests unbroken is to tip the nest upside down on a sheet of cotton and let the eggs roll out, taking a chance that none of them get damaged. This is a bird I never was very "strong" on, either, but they seem to be on the increase of late and I have hopes of adding to my already small series, consisting of seven sets, this season. Nothing to my mind looks prettier, both to the artistic and oological eye than a nice series of Wrens of all species and a well-filled series of Bush-tits in the same drawer; the two always seem to me to belong together more than any two other North American species.

Los Angeles, California.

Breeding of the White-throated Swift.

(Through the courtesy of Prof. Robert H. Wolcott I have before me a copy of the proceedings of the Nebraska Ornithologist's Union (3rd meeting) and among other interesting articles, I find the following written by M. A. Carriker, Jr., of Nebraska City, Nebr. Probably a few of the *Oologists'* readers have seen this but in apology we would remind these that hundreds of them have not and as very little has ever been published about this bird we reproduce the article in full.—ED.)

"This interesting bird has for several years been known to be an inhabitant of the canons of Sioux and Danes counties and has been supposed to breed there, but until May 30, 1901, no nest or eggs had ever been seen or taken. Indeed very little is known of the breeding of this bird anywhere on account of the usually inaccessible situation which it selects for a nesting site.

In May, 1900, a party consisting of Mr. G. S. Hunter, Mr. Merritt Cary and Mr. J. C. Crawford, Jr., located a colony of perhaps a dozen pairs of these birds near the head of West Munroe Canon in Sioux County, but

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were unable to reach the places where the birds appeared to have their nests. So in 1901 the party went with a firm determination to secure eggs of the birds. On May 30, our party consisting of Prof. Bruner, Dr. Wolcott, Mr. Cary and myself, visited the cliff occupied by the birds the year before and found that they had returned and to all appearances had nests, under construction at least, in the crevices of the cliff about seventy feet above the base of the perpendicular wall of rock.

The home of the birds was a bold convex cliff, forming one wall of the canon and facing to the southwest. On the south side, about two-thirds of the distance to the top, was a ledge upon which rested the last year's nest of a pair of Krider's Hawks and into which Mr. Hunter had longingly gazed, from the top of a neighboring pine, at the two eggs, so near and yet so far. Around this nest and on the west side of the cliff were scattered the nest of the Swifts, as could be seen by the way in which they were constantly darting in and out of the cracks and crevices, keeping up a constant vigorous chatting as they wheeled, circled and darted about in the vicinity of the cliff. Their swiftness of wing and the poor footing made the work of collecting any for skins well nigh an impossibility, and it was only after a long-continued fusillade that one lone bird was secured. After various plans of reaching the nests had been discussed, I volunteered to make an attempt to climb the cliff. The trunk of a small pine, cut down by Mr. Hunter the year before, lay at the base of the cliff, and when this was erected I was able to ascend about one-third of the distance to a narrow projection of rock at a point where several nests were supposed to be. As may be seen from the photograph, there is a shoulder of rock, but a few feet in width, running perpendicularly up the side of the cliff and ending in the projection I have just mentioned. This shoulder was made by a vertical section of the face of the cliff slipping down and still remaining in an upright though rather unstable condition, and it was up the narrow side of this section that I must climb in order to reach the much desired nests above. This cliff consists, as do all the rocks of the region, of a soft sandstone which is rapidly disintegrated by the action of the elements upon it. This fact made the ascent far more precarious than it otherwise would have been, since one could never tell when the portion of rock which sustained his weight would tumble away. But while this was a great difficulty, it was also the means which made it possible for me to ascend the cliff, since I was able, with the small handaxe which I carried, to cut foot and hand holds in the rock and thus gradually make the ascent.

I think any one can appreciate the task of clinging to the nearly perpendicular face of a cliff for the length of time sufficient to cut steps for the ascent of nearly fifty feet. But persistence finally overcame all obstacles and I stood at the top within easy reach of three nests, one of which was still empty while another contained one egg and the third two. The nests were made entirely of feathers, glued in to a compact mass by means of the saliva of the bird, and also securely fastened by the same means to the bottom of the vertical fissures in the rock in which they were placed. By this time Dr. Wolcott had climbed by a round-a-bout way to the top of the cliff and let down a coil of rope over the face of the rock to assist me in the descent. Owing to the overhanging nature of the cliff, the rope hung out several feet beyond reach and I was compelled to draw the end up by means of a

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stout cord which I happened to have. Taking a turn of the rope around one leg, I started to slide down but stopped a short distance below at a fourth nest. Clinging to the rope with one hand and leg I chopped away the rock with the other hand until the nest was reached and the four fresh eggs safely transferred to my mouth and later to the ground. On June 14th, Mr. Cary and I returned to the cliff and I secured sets from the three nests which I visited first on my former ascent. On this trip I secured photographs of the cliff and the nest and eggs.

On June 2nd, Prof. Bruner located another nest in the west branch of Warbonnet Canon. This was not so high as the others, being not more than twenty feet from the base of the cliff, and was easily reached by cutting a slender pine and leaning it against the cliff. But two eggs were secured from this nest. In all, five nests were found and sets secured from each, two of four eggs, two of three, and one of two. The eggs are pure dull white more or less specked and spotted by some black foreign substance which can be only partly removed by washing. They are long and pointed, as can be seen by the measurements. The eggs in a typical set of four measured respectively, 25 x 15, 22 x 14, 22 x 14 m m. The smallest of the sixteen eggs collected measures 21 x 13 m m; the largest 25 x 15; while the average is 22.7 x 13.6. During incubation the parents are much attached to the nesting locality and fly constantly back and forth before the cliff. The female sits very close, often having to be removed by force, which is dangerous to the safety of the eggs, as any one who has seen or felt their claws can testify. The nest are invariably infested by a hemipterous insect much resembling the common bed bug. Whether these insects live parasitically upon the young birds or not, I cannot say, but none were ever found upon the adults. These birds are quite common in all the canons of the Pine Ridge where there are large cliffs with fissures of a sufficient height from the ground to suit the birds. I also saw a few in August around the large bluff at Gering, Neb., known as Scott's Bluff.

Nighthawk and Whip-poor-will.

The Nighthawk is a characteristic bird of eastern New York, and although usually seen about dusk, it is by no means a bird of night. All day long, in the months of June and July, it is seen zigzaging over the berry fields, clearing the higher etherial regions of insects and thereby becoming invaluable to man. Once in a while the birds come and alight in the tall pine trees studding the blue-berry fields and so lethargic are its slumbers when thus alit that a stone may be thrown that hits the branch upon which the sleeper sits, and still he "waketh not." For a long time I had hunted in vain for the nest of this bird and at last came to the conclusion that it was not my fortune to see a set taken from this locality, when on Monday, July, 11, 1904, a friend of mine, Axel Olsson, found an egg while berry picking in the above mentioned fields. The old bird was flushed from the nest(?) and tried various alluring methods to entice him away, but he didn't "entice," and took the imperfect set of one egg. The egg, in my collection is rounded on the ends and is beautifully marked with dark markings upon a lighter ground.

The Whip-poor-will, unlike its Cousin, the Nighthawk, is rarely if ever heard before dark, and keeps up its insect-destroying pursuits until "Old Sol" shows up in the east, when he goes to rest. The whistle, from which

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he gets his name, is repeated for nearly the whole night and is kept up continuously for long stretches at a time. The Whip-poor-will is the characteristic night bird of all campers out and one rarely reads an account of camp life without some reference to this well known bird. On May 28, 1904, while up camping on Helen Gould lake, a farmer boy secured a set of one egg of this desirable bird for me, while going through an old field after cows. The egg was laid upon a bare rock and was found by flushing the bird. The egg resembles the Nighthawk's in size and shape, but is creamy white, marked with small zigzag marks over the entire egg but thickest in the middle.

C. P. ALEXANDER,
Gloversville, N. Y.

Slate Colored Junco in Eastern New York.

On June 30, 1904, Lawrence P. Mills, of this city discovered a nest of the Slate colored Junco in the northern part of this county. While fishing, he flushed the female bird from the nest, placed in under an over hanging stump and compactly made of dry grasses, lined with finer. The bird, when flushed, hopped off the nest and ran rapidly across the ground like a mouse. The nest contained five eggs upon which incubation had just commenced The eggs are of a pale greenish blue, specked with reddish brown and lilac gray, chiefly at the large end. I have one other instance of Junco hpemalis, breeding in Fulton Co., the nest being found by a Mr. Robinson, a well known farmer living near here and being placed in a piece of swampy woodland, under a tussock of swamp grass. This bird Mr. Robinson called the white tailed Sparrow, but he described the bird so ably that there is no doubt as to its identification.

CHAS. P. ALEXANDER,
Gloversville, N. Y.

Nesting of the Dotted Canon Wren.

While on a camping trip in the headwaters of the San Gabrial Canon, Los Angeles Co. California in the early part of July, 1904, I had the pleasure of finding a nest of this interesting mountain bird.

The nest was placed in a good sized box, suspended by wire from the roof of the old log cabin, in which we were camped. The nest contained four small young birds, which the parents fed regularly many times a day. The birds were very tame and did not seem at all bothered, when I placed a can filled with cotton in place of the nest, which I wished to preserve, but unfortunately it was destroyed. The birds had carried in sticks enough, as a platform for the nest, to fill a good sized pail, upon these was placed the exquisitely constructed nest.

Before we left the birds grew very tame and early one morning I felt a tugging at my hair, reaching up I nearly caught one of the mischevious birds. We were sorry to leave our interesting bird friends and departing we left them singing their sweet song, a varied musical whistle.

WRIGHT M. PIERCE,
Clarement, Cal.

The Wren had Pipe Dreams.

Last Monday, June 20th while in my barn loft, I was agreeably surprised by the sudden appearance of a House Wren nervously flitting from one perch to another, energetically scolding me all the time. I became suspicious, and soon discovered madam wren's residence in a stove pipe, which had been laid up, for want of a better place on the rafters. I thrust my hand in the pipe, and very promptly a whole wren generation came bouncing out like six little brown rubber balls. Inside of five minutes nothing but a

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typical wren nest was left to indicate anything unusual doing.

Clarence H. Luther, D. D. S.

Editor Oologist:

The fire which destroyed our State Capitol some time since, burned nearly all of the collection of war mementos, among them being the skin (mounted) of the famous War Eagle, "Old Abe."

G. W. VOSBURGH,
Columbus, Wis.

EDITORIAL.

The entire Collection of Books, Shells and Eggs in sets and the greater part of the Stamp Collection of Mr. F. H. Andrus of Kellogg, Ore. (better known at Elkton, Ore.) was destroyed by fire on July 21st. As his correspondence was also destroyed all correspondents will be governed accordingly. Mr. Andrus states that he will make a start on a new Collection as soon as he gets quarters in order.

The appearance of the Editor's likeness in our last issue has evoked the comment from one of our readers that "even *birds of Wisdom* can be stuffed." So it seems that in one respect, at least, he resembles his companions in the Photo.

Friend Forge of Manitoba sent us an adv. for August at the very last minute and we were unable to get a proof of it hence it went in with incorrect address. Please note correction in this issue.

Five sets taken by G. B. Thomas this year near Livermore, Iowa, and lately examined by the Editor are worthy of mention. Set R-2 Blackbill Cuckoo (bird shot). The two eggs are as light in color as any of Yellowbill and immense as to size. Measurements 1.27 x .98 and 1.38 x 1.04. Sets A.7 and x-7 of Barn Swallow are evidently 2 sets of 7 each laid by the same bird and collected June 16th and 27th respectively. I have never seen a set of 7 of this bird before and two sets of this size from the same bird in one year is a record. Sets C-5 and F-9 of Blue Jay are both the result of double housekeeping. Mr. Thomas says that all four of the birds were about when he took the set of 9 which are clearly sets of 4 and 5 of different types. The set of 5 are 3 from one bird and 2 from another, clearly.

REVIEW.

In the current issue of American Ornithology appears a Bird Chart that should be in the hands of all beginners in Ornithology and Oology, especially those who cannot afford an expensive library on the subjects. The accompanying map is divided into six sections by natural parallels of latitude and these are further subdivided by three artificial lines into western, middle and eastern or 18 subdivisions all easily found by key figures and letters on the Chart.

It is compact, simple and right up to date. We do not understand that it can be secured separately but 10 cents and a request for a copy of August issue of American Ornithology sent to C. K. Reed, Worcester, Mass. will undoubtedly secure it if you are not a subscriber.

We had an egg of Common Night Hawk sent in for *Poor-will* and a set of Carolina Wren came in for *Lomita* a short time since both from Mississippi. A glance at this chart would have been enough to have set this collector right.

Publications Received.

American Ornithology, Vol. IV, No. 8.

Nature Study, Vol. XIII, No. 8,

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BIRDS' EGGS

In sets with data.

Price given is for entire set postpaid.

Am. Eared Grebe	5	.25;	6	.30
Holboell's "			4	.25
Pied billed "	7	.28;	8	.32
Western "	3	.36;	5	.60
Horned "	3	.30;	6	.60
St. Domingo "			4	.50
Loon			2	1.60
Red-throated Loon			1	.30
Black-throated Loon			1	.55
Puffin			1	.13
Cassin's Auklet			1	.40
Black Guillemot			2	.40
Murre			1	.13
California Murre			1	.12
Razor-bill Auk			1	.15
Great Skua			2	.45
Ring-bill Gull			3	.30
California Gull			4	.42
Am. Herring			3	.30
Western Gull	2	.25;	3	.40
Laughing Gull	3	.30;	4	.40
Caspian Tern	1	.12;	2	.28
Royal Tern	2	.25;	3	.40
Cabot's Tern			1	.15
Roseate Tern			3	.20
Common Tern	2	.08;	3	.12
Sooty Tern			1	.12
Black Tern	2	.08;	3	.15
Noddy Tern			1	.15
Black Skimmer			3	.20
Gannet			1	.15
Leach's Petrel			1	.10
Fulmar			1	.22
Double-crested Cormorant			3	.30
Florida Cormorant			2	.20
Farallone Cormorant			3	.35
Brandt's Cormorant			5	.45
Am. White Pelican			2	.50
Brown Pelican			3	.25
Mallard Duck			6	.60
Blue-winged Teal			8	.80
Cinnamon Teal	8	.96;	9	
		(with down)		1.20
Shoveller Duck	4	.50;	7	.85
Lesser Scaup Duck			5	1.25
Am. Golden-eye Duck			5	1.20
Am. Eider Duck			4	.48
Red-head Duck			5	.60
Am. Flamingo			1	.65
White Ibis			4	.45
Am. Bittern	3	.75;	4	1.15
Least Bittern	4	.25;	5	.32
Great Blue Heron	3	.45;	4	.60
Snowy Heron			4	.30
Reddish Egret			4	.50
Green Heron	3	.15;	4	.22; 5 .30
Black-crown Night Heron	3	.12;	4	.18; 5 .25
Yellow-crown Night Heron			4	.50
King Rail	9	.65;	10	.75
Clapper Rail			8	.35
Virginia Rail	7	.40;	10	.60
Sora Rail	6	.30;	8	.40; 11 .55
Florida Gallinule	7	.32;	9	.42; 10 .50
European Coot			6	.40
American Coot	9	.38;	11	.48
American Coot	12	.52;	14	.70
Northern Phalarope			4	.95
Wilson's Phalarope			4	1.15
Black-neck Stilt	3	.45;	4	.65
English Snipe			4	.40
Curlew			4	.65
Am. Avocet			4	.65
Willet			3	.45
Bartramian Sandpiper			4	.80
Spotted Sandpiper			4	.22
Lapwing Plover			4	.22
Killdeer Plover	3	.22	4	.28
Ring Plover			3	.27
Scaled Quail			11	3.00
California Quail			10	.50
Bob-white	6	.30;	14	.70; 17 .85
Ruffed Grouse	5	.60;	6	.70
Prairie Hen	6	.48;	9	.72
Valley Partridge			16	.80
Ring Pheasant			11	1.00
Eng. Pheasant			7	.70
Chacalaca			3	.45
Red-billed Pigeon			1	.28
Mourning Dove			2	.05
White-winged Dove			2	.12
Whith-fronted Dove			2	.25
Mex. Ground Dove			2	.20
Ground Dove			2	.22
Inca Dove			2	.50
Turkey Vulture			2	.70
Black Vulture			2	.70
Mississippi Kite	1	1.35;	2	2.70
Marsh Hawk	3	.45;	4	.60
Sharp-shinned Hawk			3	2.25
Cooper's Hawk	4	.48;	5	.60
Red-tailed Hawk	1	.20;	2	.40; 3 .60
West' Red-tail Hawk	1	.20;	2	(extra) .50
Red-shouldered Hawk	2	.30;	3	50; 4 .70
Red-bellied Hawk	2	(1 dam.)	.45;	2 fine .65
White-tailed Hawk			3	1.00
Krider's Hawk			2	.45
Swainson's Hawk			2	.35
Grey-tailed Hawk (Mex.)			2	2.00
Broad-winged Hawk			2	1.40
Ferruginous Rough-leg Hawk			2	1.40
American Sparrowhawk	3	.32;	4	.48; 5 .60
Desert Sparrowhawk	3	.35;	5	.60
Caracara (beauties)			3	1.20
American Osprey			2	.80
American Barn Owl			5	.80
American Long-eared Owl			5	.75
Barred Owl			2	1.00
Screech Owl	3	.50;	4	.70
California Screech Owl	3	.50;	4	.70
Tex. Screech Owl			4	.70
Great Horned Owl			1	.40
Pacific Horned Owl	1	.50;	2	1.25
Burrowing Owl			8	.50
Florida Burrowing Owl			3	.90
Road-runner	4	.35;	5	.42; 6 .50
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	2	.08;	3	.12
Black-billed Cuckoo	2	.12;	3	.18
Black-billed Cuckoo	2	(abnormal)		.25
Belted Kingfisher	5	.40;	6	.50
Baird's Woodpecker			6	.50
Downy Woodpecker			5	.40
Red-shafted Flicker			6	.20
California Woodpecker			4	.55
Gairdner's Woodpecker			5	.60
Nuttall's Woodpecker			3	1.00
Red-headed Woodpecker	4	.16;	6	.25; 7 .32
Flicker	7	.14;	9	.18
Whip-poor-will			2	1.05
Nighthawk			2	.35
Western Nighthawk			2	.30
Merrill's Parauque			2	1.70
Texan Nighthawk			2	.30
Chimney Swift	3	.28;	4	.40
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	4	.15;	5	.20
Kingbird	3	.07;	4	.10
Ark Kingbird	3	.12;	5	.20
Cassin's Kingbird			4	.36
Crested Flycatcher	4	.30;	5	.40

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Ash-throated Flycatcher			4	.35
Phoebe	4	.08;	5	.10
Black Phoebe	3	.12;	4	.16
Wood Pewee	2	.12;	3	.18
West's Wood Pewee			3	.20
Acadian Flycatcher			3	.20
Traill's Flycatcher	3	.18;	4	.24
Alder Flycatcher			3	.18
Least Flycatcher			4	.20
Prairie Horned Lark			3	.25
Desert Horned Lark			4	.45
California Horned Lark			3	.35
American Magpie			9	.45
Blue Jay	3	.06; 4	.10; 5	.12
Blue Jay	9 (Double set)			.30
California Jay	3	.24;	4	.32
American Crow	4	.10;	5	.12
Fish Crow	4	.60;	5	.75
Starling			3	.15
Bobolink	3	.25;	4	.40; 5 .50
Yellow-headed Blackbird	3	.10;	4	.15
Red-wing Blackbird	4	.05;	5	.08
San Diego Red-wing Blackbird	3	.12;	4	.16
Bicolored Blackbird			4	.15
Tricolored Blackbird			4	.18
Brewer's Blackbird	3	.08; 4	.10;	6 .18
Meadowlark	3	.10;	5	.18
West' Meadowlark	4	.12;	6	.20
Hooded Oriole	3	.45;	5	.70
Arizona Hooded Oriole	3	.35; 4	.48;	5 .60
Orchard Oriole	3	.10;	5	.18
Baltimore Oriole			5	.15
Bullock's Oriole			5	.18
Bronzed Grackle	4	.08;	5	.10
Great-tailed Grackle	3	.12;	4	.16
Boat-tailed Grackle			3	.12
Purple Grackle			5	.15
Red-eyed Cowbird			1	.15
House Finch	3	.06; 4	.08;	5 .10
House Finch			6	.15
St. Lucas House Finch			3	.30
Redpoll			4	.50
American Goldfinch			6	.18
Chestnut-collared Longspur			3	.35
Lawrence's Goldfinch	5	.35;	6	.50
Californian Goldfinch			4	.22
Western Goldfinch			4	.14
Ark. Goldfinch			4	.15
Lawrence's Goldfinch	3	.20;	4	.48
Vesper Sparrow			3	.02
Savanna Sparrow			4	.25
Grasshopper Sparrow			4	.40
Sharp-tailed Sparrow			5	.40
Seaside Sparrow			5	.42
Lark Sparrow	3	.06; 4	.08;	6 .15
West's Lark Sparrow			3	.06
Gambel's Sparrow	3	.20;	4	.25
Chipping Sparrow	3	.06;	4	.08
West's Chipping Sparrow			4	.15
Clay-colored Sparrow			3	.35
Field Sparrow	3	.06;	4	.10
Song Sparrow	4	.06;	5	.08
Rusty Song Sparrow			4	.35
San Diego Song Sparrow	3	.15;	4	.20
Swamp Sparrow	3	.20;	4	.28
Towhee	3	.18;	4	.25
Oregon Towhee			3	.25
California Towhee			4	.16
Anthony's Towhee	3	.15;	4	.20
Cardinal	3	.10;	4	.12
Texan Pyrrhuloxia			4	.50
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	3	.12;	4	.16
Black-head Grosbeak			3	.15
Blue Grosbeak			3	.25
Indigo Bunting	3	.10;	4	.15
Lazuli Bunting			3	.18
Painted Bunting	3	.12	4	.18
Sharpe's Seedeater	2 and Dwarf Cowbird			.35
Dickcissel	3	.12	4	.16
Lark Bunting			4	.35
Scarlet Tanager	3	30;	4	.40
Purple Martin			5	.35
Cliff Swallow	4	.08;	5	.12
Barn Swallow	4	.08;	5	.10
Barn Swallow	7 (very rare)			.25
Tree Swallow			4	.24
Bank Swallow	4	.08; 5	.10;	6 .12
Cedar Waxwing			4	.18
Phainopepea			2	.24
Loggerhead Shrike	5	.15;	7	.25
White-rumped Shrike	5	.15;	6	.20
California Shrike	5	.15;	6	.18
Warbling Vireo			4	.30
Red-eyed Vireo			3	.12
White-eyed Vireo			3	.20
Least Vireo			3	.35
Yellow-throated Vireo	2 and 3 Cowbird			.25
Bell's Vireo	3	.15;	5	.25
Prothonotary Warbler	5 and Cowbird			.45
Yellow Warbler	4	.08;	5	.10
Yellow Warbler	6 and 2 Cowbird			.25
Black-throated Blue Warbler			3	1.25
Chestnut-sided Warbler			4	.30
Parula Warbler			4	.40
Prairie Warbler	3	.30;	4	.40
Maryland Yellow-throat			3	.18
Yellow-breasted Chat	3	.10;	4	.14
Oven-bird			5	.35
Long-tail Chat			4	.15
Hooded Warbler			3	.50
American Redstart			4	.20
Mockingbird	3	.08;	4	.10
Catbird	3	.04;	4	.05
Brown Thrasher	3	.06;	5	.10
Pasadena Thrasher			3	.35
Palmer's Thrasher			3	.35
California Thrasher			3	.20
Sennet's Thrasher			4	.22
Curve-billed Thrasher	3	.20;	5	.30
Cactus Wren	3	.18; 4	.24;	5 .30
Carolina "			5	.40
Baird's "			5	.40
Bewick's "	5	.50;	6	.60
House "	5	.12;	6	.15
Parkman's Wren	5	.24;	6	.28
Long-bill Marsh "	5	.10;	6	.12
White-breasted Nuthatch	5	.75;	7	1.20
Fla. " "			6	2.00
Wren-tit			3	.50
Red-breasted Nuthatch			7	2.80
Brown-headed Nuthatch			4	.40
Chickadee	5	.30;	7	.42
Carolina Chickadee			3	.15
California Bush-tit	6	.30;	7	.35
Tufted Titmouse			4	.65
Wood Thrush			4	.08
Wilson's Thrush	3	.12;	4	.16
Hermit Thrush			4	.45
Olive-backed Thrush			3	.40
Russet-backed Thrush			4	.20
American Robin			4	.05
West Robin			4	.12
Bluebird	4	.08;	5	.10
Western Bluebird			6	.20

SETS WITH NESTS.

Red-eyed Vireo, n-3	.18
Am. Redstart, n-4	.28
Ruby-throat Hummer, n-2	1.00
Allen's d., n-2	.85
Meadowlark, n-4	.25
Vesper Sparrow, n-3	.12
Sharpe's Seedeater, n-3	.50
Arizona Hooded Oriole, n-4	.48
Catbird, n-4	.15
Scarlet Tanager, n-2 & C	.30
Yellow-breasted Chat, n-4 & C	.25
Phoebe, n-5	.18
Phainopepla, n-2	.35
Indigo Bunting, n-3 & C	.18
Yellow Warbler, n-4 & C	.16
Black-throat Green Warbler, n-3	.65
Rose-breasted Grosbeak, n-5	.30
Chestnut-sided Warbler, n-4	.35
Chipping Sparrow, n-3	.12
Song Sparrow, n-3	.12

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West Wood Pewee, n-2	.25
Bobolink, n-5	.60
Arkansas Goldfinch, n-4	.30
Arizona Hooded Oriole, (nest attached to leaf) n-3	.48
California Bush-tit, n-6	.45
Dickcissel, n-4	.22
Wilson's Thrush, n-4	.25
Baltimore Oriole, n-4	.25
Kingbird, n-4	.25
Barn Swallow, n-3	.25
Oven-bird, n-4	.45
Anna's Hummer, n-2	.75
Black-chinned Hummer, n-2	.70

SINGLE EGGS.

In addition to the SINGLE EGGS listed in April OOLOGIST (270 var. nearly all of which I can still furnish), I am now able to quote on the following. prices per egg, postpaid.

Horned Grebe (data)	.07
Herring Gull	.10
European Teal	.09
Cinnamon Teal	.12
American Bittern (data)	.30
Green Heron	.05
Yellow-crown Night-heron	.10
Louisiana Clapper Rail	.12
American Coot (data)	.04
Wilson's Phalarope (data)	.30
Bartramian Sandpiper (data)	.20
Mississippi Kite	1.25
Broad-wing Hawk	.45
Desert Sparrowhawk (data)	.10
Black-billed Cuckoo	.04
Belted Kingfisher	.09
Chimney Swift	.08
Ruby-throat Hummingbird, (nest and data)	.50
Black-chinned Hummingbird (nest and data)	.45
Say's Phoebe	.06
Black Phoebe	.04
Blue Jay	.02
White-necked Raven	.25
Yellow-headed Blackbird	.02
San Diego Redwing (data)	.05
Baltimore Oriole	.03
Grasshopper Sparrow	.10
Lark Sparrow	.02
Anthony's Towhee	.05
Purple Martin	.06
Louisiana Tanager	.25
Tree Swallow	.06
Phainopepla	.12
Black-throated Green Warbler	.20
Water Thrush, (data)	.30
Louisiana Water Thrush	.12
Plumbeous Chickadee	.18

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VOL. XXI. NO. 10. ALBION, N. Y., OCT., 1904. WHOLE NO. 207

What's Your Number ?

Examine the number following your name on the wrapper of this month's OOLOGIST. It denotes when your subscription expired or will expire.

207 your subscription expires with this issue
209 " " " " Dec., 1904
212 " " " " Mar., 1905
257 " " " " Dec., 1908

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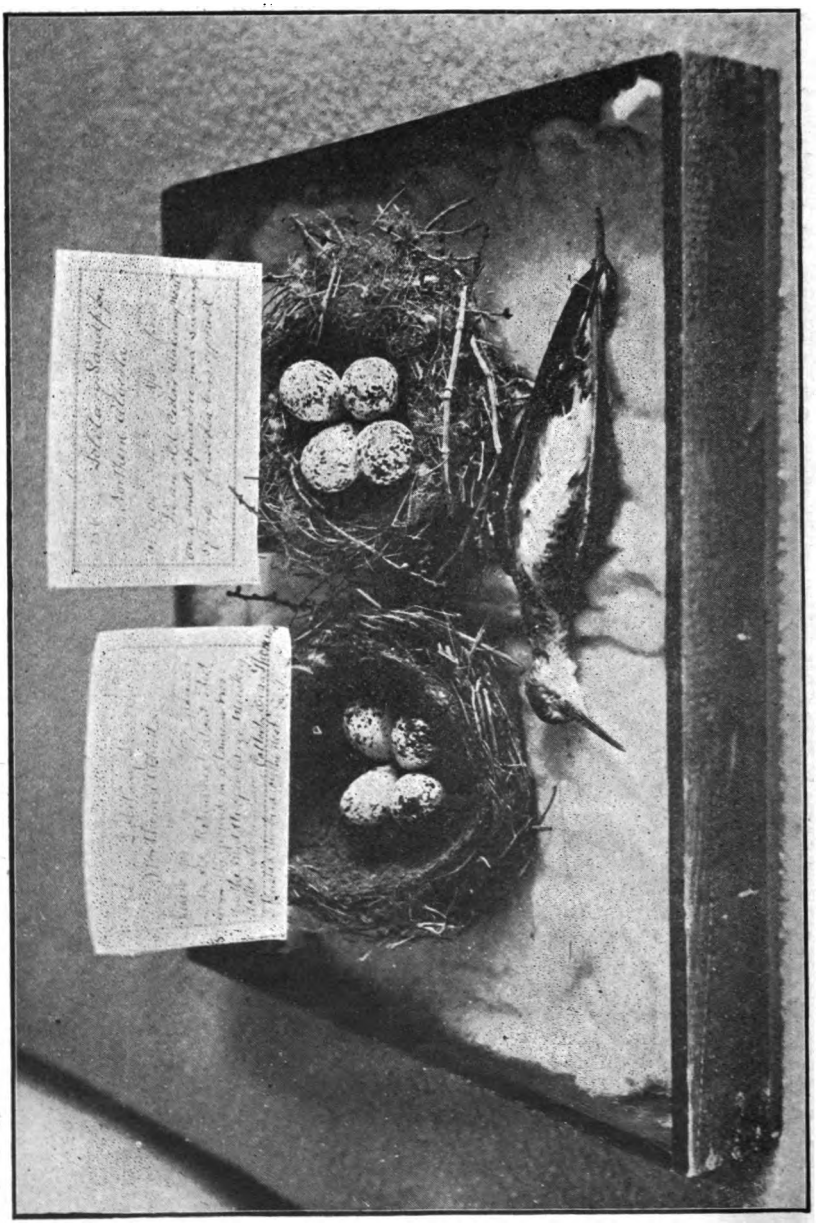
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NEST AND EGGS OF THE SOLITARY SANDPIPER.

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THE OÖLOGIST.

VOL. XXI. No. 10. ALBION, N. Y., OCT., 1904. WHOLE No. 207

THE OÖLOGIST.

A Monthly Publication Devoted to
OOLOGY, ORNITHOLOGY AND TAXIDERMY.

FRANK H. LATTIN, Publisher,
ALBION, N. Y.

ERNEST H. SHORT, Editor and Manager.

Correspondence and items of interest to the student of Birds, their Nests and Eggs, solicited from all.

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ERNEST H. SHORT, Editor and Manager,
Chill, Monroe Co., N. Y.

Discovery of the Eggs of Solitary Sandpiper.

WALTER RAINE, TORONTO, CANADA,

At last the long-sought for egg of the Solitary Sandpiper has been found, and it affords one considerable pleasure to be the first ornithologist to record its nesting habits, which are unique among North American birds, for I have positive proof that the species lays its eggs in the nests of other birds, this being one of the most important discoveries in recent years in regard to the nidification of any American bird.

In "Nests and Eggs of British Birds non-Indigenous" the author, Mr. Chas. Dixon' says of this species, "Incredible as it may seem the nest and eggs still remain unknown to science, for it is impossible to accept the description of the latter given by the late Dr. Brewer without anthentication. Here can be little doubt that this species lays its eggs in the deserted nests of other birds in low treee like its old world representative, the Green Sandpiper, is known to do. Search should be made in such places in the summer haunts of this species."

I am aware that other ornithologists have previously recorded what were supposed to be the eggs of Solitary Sandpiper but these records are far from being satisfactory and mostly conjecture. For instance the above record of which Mr. Chas. Dixon says "it is impossible to accept the description of this egg given by the late Dr. Brewer without authentication." The egg recorded by Dr. Brewer found in Vermont in 1878 according to Dr. Brewers' own description was without doubt only an egg of the Piping Plover, the nest being found on the ground, a site not selected by the Solitary Sandpiper.

Another supposed nest of this species was recorded by Dr. Clarke of Kingston, Ontario, in the Auk for October,

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1898. This same nest was again recorded in the Ottawa Naturalist for December 1899 by the Rev. C. J. Young, but this nest was also found on the ground and the parent bird was not secured and although both Dr. Clarke and the Rev. C. J. Young are enthusiastic and reliable ornithologists, yet as they did not secure the parent bird, identification was not complete, besides Mr. C. A. Reed in his recent work on North American Birds Eggs. gives a figure of one of these supposed eggs of the Solitary Sandpiper found by Dr. Clarke, and it very much resembles a variety of the Spotted Sandpiper's eggs both in size, shape and style of markings, whereas my authentic eggs of the Solitary Sandpiper are larger, more pyriform, finer grain of shell and more polished and the ground color is pale greenish white, a tint never seen on a Spotted Sandpiper yet, but usually found in eggs of the European Green and Wood Sandpipers, in fact the eggs of the Solitary Sandpiper, as was to be expected; bear a strong family likeness to eggs of the Green Sandpiper, but are one-third smaller as they should be.

Now for my records which are absolutely authentic and thoroughly conclusive, and establish once for all, the fact that the Solitary Sandpiper does not lay its eggs on the ground like other American Sandpipers, but deposits its eggs in the nests of other birds, often at a considerable distance from the ground.

In the spring of 1903, I engaged Mr. Evan Thomson to collect birds eggs for me in Northern Alberta, and when the season was over he sent me a list with notes on the specimens he had collected among which was a record of finding a clutch of Sandpiper's eggs in an old American Robin's nest built in a tree top.

I felt sure these would turn out to be eggs of the Solitary Sandpiper and in due time the eggs were sent down to me. On unpacking the specimens I saw at a glance they were unlike any other American Sandpiper and as they very much resembled a set of Green Sandpipers in my collection except being smaller in size, I was quite positive in my own mind this was a genuine clutch of the Solitary Sandpiper, and several ornithologists who called upon me to see my collection confirmed my opinion. Among those who inspected this clutch I may name the Rev. C. J. Young of Madoc, Ontario, Mr. Edward Arnold of Battle Creek, Mich., and Mr. Edward Reinecke, of Buffalo, N. Y. But as Mr. Thompson had failed to secure the parent bird thus establishing identity completely, I thought I would wait patiently for another year in hopes that another nest would be found and the parent bird secured, and in this we have been successful as the following letter from Mr. Thomson proves:

"This season on June 9th I found another set of Solitary Sandpipers' eggs, this time in a Grackle'e nest in a low tree. I blew the eggs and left them until the next day intending to return with my gun and shoot the bird but on again visiting the nest, I found the eggs were gone, evidently the bird had removed them, as I saw no trace of egg shells around.

However, on the 20th of June I was still more fortunate as I found another clutch and shot the parent bird as she flew from the nest and secured the four fresh eggs. This time the eggs were found in a Cedar Waxwing's nest in a spruce tree out in a swamp or muskeg."

The following is a description of the three sets of Solitary Sandpipers:

Set I. Taken in Northern Alberta, June 16, 1903, 4 eggs advanced in incubation, collector, Evan Thomson. This set was found in an old nest of the American Robin built 15 feet up in

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a tamarac tree, that was growing in the middle of a large muskeg, dotted with tamaracs. The bird was flushed off the nest but unfortunately not secured. This Clutch with the old American Robin's nest is now in my collection and the eggs measure respectively, 1.33 x 98, 1.38 x 98, 1.38 x 1.00, 1.35 x 95. The eggs are exceedingly handsome and unlike the eggs of any other American Sandpiper. The ground color is pale greenish white heavily blotched and spotted at the larger ends with vandyke brown, rusty or chestnut brown and purplish grey.

Set II. Northern Alberta, June 9, 1904. 4 eggs found in the nest of a Bronzed Grackle, built in a low tree. These eggs were unfortunately lost, owing to Mr. Thomson first blowing them and then leaving them in the nest until he returned with his gun to shoot the parent bird, which had evidently carried off the egg shells during his absence.

Set III. Northern Alberta, June 24, 1904. 4 eggs found in a Cedar Waxwing's nest, which was built in a small spruce tree growing in a swamp. The nest was about 5 feet up and Mr. Thomson was fortunate in shooting the bird as she flew from the nest and this identification is perfectly complete and beyond all possibility of a doubt. These 4 eggs measure respectively, 1.39 x 1.02, 1.37 x 98, 1 30 x 99, 1.33 x 97. The ground color is pale greenish white or sea green, spotted with vandyke brown, purplish brown and purplish grey. The shells have a fine grain, polished and pyriform in shape.

The eggs of both clutches are exceedingly large for he size of the bird, the eggs averaging larger than any of my Spotted Sandpiper eggs in a series of over 100 eggs, but the Solitary Sandpipers' eggs is one-third smaller than those of the European Green and Wood Sandpipers. This clutch of Solitary Sandpiper, with the Cedar Waxwing's nest and skin of the female Solitary Sandpiper, together with the original data label and letters from Mr. Thomson are now in the extensive collection owned by Colonel John E. Thayer, Lancaster, Mass., whom I am sure will be pleased to show them to any ornithologist who can call and see his collection of eggs and skins, which is one of the largest in America.

The finding of the long-sought for eggs of the Solitary Sandpiper, now make the seventh species whose eggs are new to science which were previously unknown until discovered by myself and assistants in north west Canada. The other species are Richardson's Merlin, Greater Yellowlegs, Belted Piping Plover, Nelson's; Lecontes and Harris' Sparrows, a record that any ornithologist might be proud of.

North west Canada has offered other surprises to ornithologists by my finding several species nesting there which were previously unknown to nest so far south as the fifty-first parallel.

These include the much disputed Little Brown Crane, Lesser Yellowlegs, Semipalmated Sandpiper, American Rough-legged Hawk, American Hawk Owl, Canada Jay and Rusty Blackbird.

In the past one or two American Ornithologists, who have never been in north west Canada, and know absolutely nothing of the Avi-Fauna of the vast Canadian north west, criticised my book "Bird Nesting in North West Canada." They ridiculed my records of the Little Brown Crane and other species nesting in north west Canada. I have spent 10 years collecting all over north west Canada and was the first ornithologist to explore Assiniboia and Alberta, and can back up all my records with infallible proofs. Such an eminent authority as John Macoun, M. A. F.

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R. S. C., ornithologist to the Geological Survey of Canada, endorses my book, "Bird Nesting in North West Canada" by saying "that it does not contain a single record of any bird that does not breed there," and Prof Macoun knows what he is talking about, as he has spent many summers in north west Canada. And now that the eggs of the Solitary Sandpiper have at last been discovered, for which ornithologists searched in vain for the past 25 years, I hope oologists will pardon my conceit and egotism when I claim the credit of being the means whereby its eggs and peculiar and previously unknown methods of nidification have been discovered.

My Hoodeds of '97 and '98.

The Hooded Warbler usually arrives in Eastern N. C. not later than April 10th. I found them common in Bertie county; frequently met with in Chawan county; rarely seen in Beaufort county; and, far from being common in Lenoir county. In Norfolk county Va., we note them, but far from being common, though not rare.

1897.

May 8, Set 1-4. Nest of leaves, bark and grass, lined with hair, placed in small alder bush, 20 inches from the ground. Incubation begun.

May 8, Set 15-4. Nest placed in small myrtle bush, about 30 inches above the ground, made of bark, leaves and wool, lined with fine black moss. Incubation medium embryos.

May 8, Set 16-4. Nest of grass, leaves, fine bark and spiderwebs, lined with very fine black moss from trunks of trees; placed in small maple bush, about 24 inches from the ground. Incubation fresh.

May 8, Set 23-3. Nest of fine bark and grass, lined with fine black moss; placed in sweet gum bush, 20 inches from the ground. Eggs fresh.

May 10, Set 17-4. Nest of leaves and and grass, lined with hair; placed in reed, 16 inches from the ground. Medium embryos.

May 10, Set 18-4. Nest of skeleton leaves, grass and fine bark, lined with hair from tail of cow; placed in myrtle bush, 26 inches from the ground. Incubation slight.

May 10, Set 18-4. Nest of skelcton leaves, fine bark and grass, lined with hair; placed in dogwood bush, 18 inches from the ground. Eggs fresh.

May 11, Set 20-4. Nest of fine bark, leaves and grass, lined with hair; placed in wild currant bush, 22 inches from the ground. Eggs fresh.

May 11, Set 21-4. Nest of fine bark, leaves and grass, lined with strips of grape vine bark; placed in gallberry bush, 18 inches from the ground. Eggs fresh.

May 11, Set 22-4. Nest of fine bark, leaves and grass, lined with fine black moss; placed in myrtle bush, about 3 reet from the ground. Eggs fresh.

May 12, Set 23-4. Nest, leaves, fine bark and grass, lined with fine black moss, placed in a sweet gum bush, about, 2 feet high. Eggs fresh.

May 12, Set 24-4. Nest of grass, leaves and fine bark, lined with fine black moss; placed in small bush, 2 feet from the ground. Eggs fresh.

May 12, Set 25-4. Nest placed in small myrtle bush, 18 inches from the ground; made of leaves, grass and fine black moss. Eggs fresh.

May 13, Set 26-4. Nest placed in an alder bush, 30 inches from the ground; made of fine bark and leaves, lined with fine grass. Medium embryos.

May 13, Set 27-4. Nest of fine bark and grass, lined with fine black moss; placed in myrtle bush, 27 inches from the ground. Eggs fresh.

May 13, Set 28-4. Nest of fine bark, leaves and grass, lined with fine black moss; placed in a sowerwood, 30 inches from the ground. Eggs fresh.

May 13, Set 23a-3. Nest of fine bark,

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and leaves, lined with fine black moss; placed in small myrtle bush, about, 2 feet from the ground. Small embryos.

May 15, Set 24-3. Nest in small myrtle bush, 12 inches from the ground, made of fine bark and leaves, lined with fine black moss. Incubation begun.

May 15, Set 25-3. Nest of strips of cedar bark and leaves, lined with fine black moss; placed in bunch of briers, 14 inches from the ground. Incubation slight.

May 15, Set 29-4. Old nest repaired, of regular material; placed in small beech bush, 12 inches from the ground. Incubation advanced.

May 19, Set 26-3. Nest of fine bark, leaves and grass, lined with fine black moss; placed in small holly, about 3 feet high. Incubation advanced.

May 19, Set 27-3. Nest of fine bark, leaves and grass, lined with hair; placed in small dogwood bush near the ground. Eggs fresh.

May 19, Set 28-3. Nest of grass, leaves and fine bark, lined with fine black moss; placed in maple bush, 36 inches from the ground. Eggs fresh.

May 19, Set 30-4. Nest of fine bark, leaves and grass, lined with fine black moss; placed in small sowerwood bush, 30 inches from the ground. Eggs fresh.

May 20, Set 29-3. Nest of leaves fine bark and grass, lined with fine black moss; placed in small maple bush, 30 inches from the ground. Eggs fresh.

May 26, Set 31-4. Nest of bark alone, lined with grass and fine black moss; placed in a sowerwood, about 2 feet from the ground. Incubation slight.

June 3, Set 30-3. Nest of leaves only, lined with fine grass; placed on horizontal oak limb, about 3 feet from the ground. Incubation slight.

June 10, Set 31-3. Nest of leaves, grass and fine bark, lined with fine black moss; placed in small myrtle bush, about 2 feet from the ground. Incubation advanced.

June 11, Set 32-3. Nest placed in an oak bush, 4 feet from the ground; made of leaves and fine bark, lined with fine grass and hair.

1898.

May 6, Set 33-3. Nest placed in small holly, 28 inches from the ground; made of leaves, fine bark and grass, lined with fine black moss. Incubation slight.

May 6, Set 32-4. Nest of reed leaves, grass and fine bark, lined with fine black moss; placed in reed, about four feet from the ground. Eggs fresh.

May 6, Set 33-4. Nest of leaves, grass and fine bark, lined with fine black moss; placed in top of reed, about 4 feet from the ground. Eggs fresh.

May 7, Set 34-4. Nest of fine bark, leaves and grass, lined with fine black moss; placed in holly, 40 inches from the ground. Eggs fresh.

May 10, Set 35-4. Nest of fine bark, leaves, feathers and grass, lined with hair; placed in small holly, 20 inches from the ground. Eggs fresh.

May 10, Set 36-4. Nest of fine bark, leaves and grass, lined with hair; placed in small maple bush, 30 inches from the ground. Eggs fresh.

May 11, Set 34-3. Nest of leaves, grass and fine black moss; placed in bunch of briars, about four feet from the ground. Eggs fresh.

May 13, Set 35-3. Nest of fine bark, leaves and grass, lined with hair; placed in an elm bush, 24 inches from the ground. Eggs fresh.

May 12, Set 36-3. Nest of leaves, fine bark and grass, lined with hair; placed in small bush, about 2 feet high. Incubation slight.

May 15, Set 37-3. Nest of leaves and fine bark, lined with fine grass; placed in small myrtle bush, 30 inches from the ground. Eggs fresh.

May 14, Set 1-5. Nest of fine bark,

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leaves and grass, lined with fine black moss; placed in gallberry bush, 30 inches high. One chipped when found. Incubation small embryos.

May 14, Set 38-3. Nest of fine bark, leaves and grass, lined with hair; placed in small beech bush, 14 inches from the ground. Incubation begun.

May 14, Set 37-4. Nest of reed leaves, grass and fine bark, lined with fine black moss; placed in reed, 26 inches from the ground. Incubation small embryos.

May 18, Set 39-3. Nest of fine bark, leaves and grass, lined with fine black moss; placed in small maple bush, 20 inches from the ground. Incubation large embryos.

May 19, Set 38-3. Nest of leaves, fine bark and grass, lined with fine black moss; placed in small beech bush, about 3 feet from the ground. Egg fresh.

May 19, Set 39-4. Nest of leaves and fine bark, lined with grass. placed in small sowerwood, about 24 inches from the ground. Eggs fresh.

May 19, Set 40-3. Nest of leaves, fine bark and wool, lined with grass; placed in small maple, about 12 inches from the ground. Eggs fresh.

May 19, Set 41-3. Nest of fine bark, leaves and grass, lined with fine black moss; placed in myrtle bush, about 4 feet from the ground. Eggs fresh.

May 21, Set 42-3. Nest of fine bark. leaves and grass, lined with fine black moss; placed in small holly bush, 24 inches from the ground. Incubation slight.

May 21, Set 43-3. Nest of leaves, fine bark and grass, lined with fine black moss; placed in a sowerwood, about 3 feet from the ground. Eggs fresh.

May 21, Set 44-3. Nest placed in gallberry bush, 30 inches from the ground; made of fine bark, leaves and grass, lined with fine black moss. Incubation advanced.

May 21, Set 45-3. Nest of grass, leaves and fine bark, lined with fine black moss; placed in small oak bush, about two feet from the ground. Eggs fresh.

May 21, Set 46-3. Nest of grass, leaves and fine bark, lined with fine black moss; placed in small beech bush, about two feet from the ground. Eggs fresh.

May 23, Set 47-3. Nest of grass and skeleton leaves, lined with fine black moss; placed in small gum bush, 22 inches from the ground. Incubation slight.

May 24, Set 48-4. Nest of fine bark, leaves and grass, lined with fine black moss; placed in small holly, 54 inches from the ground. Incubation small embryos.

Maw 24, Set 49-3. Nest of leaves, fine bark and grass, lined with fine black moss; placed in gallberry bush, about two feet from the ground. Eggs fresh.

May 26th Set 50-3. Nest of fine bark, leaves and fine grass, lined with fine black moss; placed in hickory bush, about four feet from the ground. Incubation slight.

May 27, Set 51-3. Nest of bark, leaves and grass, lined with hair; placed in an alder, 28 inches from the ground. Incubation advanced.

May 28, Set 52-3. Nest of leaves and bark, lined with hair; placed in small oak, about four feet from the ground. Eggs fresh.

May 28, Set 53-3. Nest of fine bark, leaves and grass, lined with fine black moss; placed in small oak bush, about two feet from the ground. Eggs fresh.

May 28, Set 54-3. Nest of fine bark, and grass, lined with fine black moss; placed in small gum, 12 inches from the ground. Incubation advanced.

May 28, Set 55-3. Nest placed in small dogwood, 12 inches from the ground; made of leaves, fine bark and

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and grass, lined with fine black moss. Incubation advanced.

May 31, Set 56-3. Nest of fine bark, leaves and grass, lined with fine black moss; placed in reed, forty inches from the ground. Incubation small embryos.

May 31, Set 57-3. Nest of fine bark, leaves and grass, lined with hair; placed in small oak bush, about 30 inches from the ground. Eggs fresh.

May 31, Set 58-3. Nest of fine bark, leaves and fine grass, lined with fine black moss; placed in bunch of briers, about 30 inches from the ground. Eggs fresh.

June 5, Set 59-3. Nest of leaves, fine bark and grass, lined with hair; placed in reed, about 24 inches from the ground. Incubation begun.

June 21, Set 60-3. Nest of leaves, fine bark and grass, lined with fine black moss; placed in an alder, about three feet from the ground. Incubation begun.

The above is an exact list of data for sets taken in 1897-98.

The "fine black moss," so often referred to as the lining, can be found on almost any forest tree in this locality.

All the above sets were taken in Bertie county, near Merry Hill, N. C.

R. P. SMITHWECK,
Norfolk, Va.

Kirtland's Warbler.

On June 15th I took male and female and beautiful nest in situ and four fresh eggs of Dendroica kirtlandi in Oscoda county, Mich., and on June 29th I took another nest in situ with four fresh eggs.

These, so far as I know, are the first full sets of this bird known to science.

Nests were on the ground in dense vegetation of Deer Vines, Winter Green, and various vines. Female is a very close sitter and the nests and eggs are very hard to find.

I spent two weeks in Northern Michigan, Oscoda county, and took two nests of the Junco, one contained four eggs, the other three, both nests found the same day, June 16, 1904.

Dendroica kirtlandi is confined during the breeding season to the Jack Pine plains. The nest is built of grasses and sunk into the ground and always well concealed by surrounding vines and vegetation. Female on eggs allowed me to stand within six inches of the nest and to almost touch her. I could have put my hat over her on the nest. The male is a beautiful singer and very noticeable.

E. ARNOLD.

Green Leaves in Nests.

In the "Oologist" for March, Mr. Short has given us a most interesting article on a series of sets of the Mississippi Kite, with description of location and nest.

The description of nests show that green leaves were almost invariably used in the lining, and Mr. Short suggests that green leaves in the nest lining are used only by the Mississippi Kite among American Avifauna. He excepts the Cuckoos.

As an exception to the general rule, a description of a nest of Broad-winged Hawk, found by my brother and myself in Sharon, Massachusetts, may be of interest.

Nest: Small sticks, lined with hemlock bark and many green oak leaves.

There were three eggs in which incubation was almost completed, proving that the leaves must have been added long after the eggs were laid.

J. H. BOWLES,
Tacoma, Wash.

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Editorial

Did you notice the number on your wrapper this month? Several hundred subscriptions expire with this issue.

A prompt renewal will save us the trouble of notifying you later and enable us to give you a still better publication.

To those on our books who are in arrearages over one year we are making a special offer to each by letter that could not be more liberal.

We trust that every one will take advantage of that offer as we shall not repeat it after January 1st, 1905 and we do not like to remove names from our list any better than other publishers do.

The following is one of several that have helped to offset many of the Editors vexations.

Mr. Ernest H. Short:

Dear Sir.—Received the "Oologist" to date and am greatly pleased to see it in such good shape again. I trust it will receive the support it deserves so well.

Yours truly,
T. W. RICHARDS, M. D.
U. S. S. Arkansas.

The following changes and additions are announced by the Am. Ornith' Union.

Additions: *Dendragapus, obscurus, sierræ, Astragalinus psaltria hesperophilus, Lanius ludovicianus mearnsi, Budytes flavus alascensis, Bæolophus inornatus restrictus. Eliminations, Sayornis nigricans semiatra; Pipilo fuscus carolæ; Heleodytes brunneicapillus anthonyi Passerculus rostratus halophilus.*

Changes: *Nyctala* becomes *Cryptoglaux; Corvus americanus* becomes *C. brachyrhynchos; Scolecophagus* becomes *Euphagus; Helodytes brunneicapillus* becomes *H. b. couesi; Phylloposuestes* becomes *Acanthopneuste. Dendroica æstiva brewsteri* was rejected.

The Phainopepla, Thrashers, Nuthatches and Bush-tits are raised to separate family rank.

We are glad to announce a hearty response to our "*Standard Catalogue*" scheme and we can now confidently announce the early issue of a cataln gue of N. Am. Eggs that will be as near right as the cooperation of 20 leading Am. Oologists can make it. Of course all can not be entirely satisfied in a matter of this kind. It is a big country and on many things it has been necessary to compromise on the "happy mean" between the views of collectors who saw the matter from different stand points and hence were far apart in their ideas.

The Catalogue will contain much new matter and be entirely up-to-date but will be issued at the old price, 25 cents postpaid.

Publication Received.

Am. Ornithology, Vol. IV No. 9. Nature Study, Vol. XIII, No. 9. Birds and Nature, Vol. XVI, No. 2. Condor, Vol. VI, No. 5. Journal of Me. Ornithology Society, Vol. VI, No. 3.

Review.

There has lately fallen into my hands a copy of "Frederick Young" by Chas. L. Phillps.

As a rule efforts to combine Science and Natural History with fiction have been confined to story books for the young or the flights of imagination given us by such writers as Jules Verne and H. G. Wells.

Mr. Phillips has successfully made the combination for readers of all ages and his science is all solid facts.

I find the book full of information and yet so adroitly combined with readable fiction that it is not tiresome and holds the interest of the reader throughout.

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BIRDS EGGS. I can still furnish many of the sets listed in September issue. If *you saw or now see* on that list any set you wish to place in your collection write me at once. I will send you a revised copy of the list promptly, showing just what I can furnish you. ERNEST H. SHORT. Rochester, N. Y.

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VOL. XXI. No. 12. ALBION, N. Y., DEC., 1904. WHOLE No. 209

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209 your subscription expires with this issue
212 " " " " Mar., 1905
219 " " " " Oct., 1905
221 " " " " Dec., 1905
257 " " " " Dec., 1908

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THE OÖLOGIST.

VOL. XXI. NO. 12. ALBION, N. Y., DEC., 1904. WHOLE NO. 209

THE OÖLOGIST.

A Monthly Publication Devoted to
OOLOGY, ORNITHOLOGY AND TAXIDERMY.

FRANK H. LATTIN, Publisher,
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ERNEST H. SHORT, Editor and Manager.

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The Great Dismal Swamp of Virginia.

Much has appeared in the columns of our various newspapers in regard to this immense swamp, the existence of which seems to be quite generally known although accurate information in regard to it has, in the writers experience at least, been rather difficult to obtain. Both before and after the civil war it was much resorted to by runaway slaves and others who found a safe hiding place in its dense, dark tangles and hence there is considerable romantic interest attached to it. Popular belief has it that the swamp is now, as it may have been then, a very gloomy morass, almost inacessible for travel, abounding in poisonous snakes and making an atmosphere heavily tainted with malaria and swamp fever. To investigate the real conditions, the writer, accompanied by Mr. Paul White of Washington, D. C. paid a short visit to the swamp during the fall of 1901. We were well repaid for our trouble by a sight of this interesting country and of the very pretty body of water, Lake Drummond, which forms a part of it.

The swamp occupies a plain about forty miles wide, extending from Suffolk, Virginia to Albemarle Sound, North Carolina. "Its western boundary is determined by a sharply defined escarpment, formed by the sea when the continent was about twenty-eight feet below its present level. Its eastern boundary is marked by a series of low elevations, dune like in nature, extending from Norfolk, Va. to Elizabeth City, N. C." The country is undulating in character, well wooded and apparently fertile. The Dismal Swamp Canal, a canal of considerable width and depth, extends from Deep Creek, Va. to South Mills, N. C., thus connecting Chesapeake Bay with Albermarle Sound and affording a safe inside passage to such heavily

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laden barges and vessels as do not attempt the ocean trip.

We made our start from Norfolk on the eighteenth of September, 1901. It was difficult even in Norfolk to obtain any accurate information in regard to the swamp, or by what means it could be reached. We made frequent inquiries along the wharf front as to the whereabouts of the canal, generally eliciting that discouraging answer, "Deed I doan know sah." However after much travel and questioning we obtained the information that the canal was at Gilmerton, some seven miles from Norfolk and that a steamer for that place left Norfolk at two o'clock in the afternoon. After assuring ourselves that this information was correct, we visited the office of the Albemarle and Chesapeake Canal Company where we obtained an interview with the manager. From him we learned that there was a canal which started from Deep Creek, the latter place being abont two and a half mile from Gilmerton. He also informed us that formerly the canal commenced at Gilmerton, but that the portion between Deep Creek and Gilmerton had been abandoned. His account of the swamp itself was most discouraging, but in spite of this and the terrible weather we decided to keep going.

Promptly at two o'clock we appeared at the wharf of the Bennett Line and found there the little steamer Nita which was to convey us to Gilmerton where we hoped to be able to secure a skiff. There had been a terrible rain all this time and our clothes were drenched, which made the little cabin of the Nita seem doubly inviting and comfortable.

The moorings were soon cast off and we commenced to wend our way up the Elizabeth River, stopping occasionally at some little wharf to put off freight. The scenery along the banks of the river was really very pretty, marshes of considerable extent reaching out from banks covered with brush, and trees that stood out in clear outline against the sky.

At Gilmerton we were landed in a scow, from which we clambered to a schooner lying alongside and thence to the wharf. Gilmerton appeared to be a busy little spot but it was raining hard and we could not well appreciate the scenery. A man whom we met at Gilmerton gave us considerable information about the swamp, his stories about the abundance of game certainly contradicting those of our informant in Norfolk. We succeeded in renting a flat bottomed skiff from a "gentleman of color" and after bailing it out we embarked and commenced our trip up the canal.

The scenery along the banks of the canal was very pretty. Many species of trees, among which we noted maples pine, cypress, oaks and willows, intermingled with a luxuriant growth of shrubs, lined the banks on both sides. The canal was from fifty to over one hundred feet wide and of a good depth. Had it not been for the rain our trip up this portion of the canal would have been one of many stops, but as the rain was still coming down in torrents we hustled along as fast as possible.

We met our first real trouble just below Deep Creek, in the shape of a carry of over a hundred yards, from the Gilmerton canal into the main canal starting from Deep Creek. Our boat was very heavy and we could not have managed it, had it not been for the keeper of the Deep Creek lock gate who came to our assistance. On getting into the main canal it was but a few minutes journey to Deep Creek. When we arrived there the hour was so late that we tied our skiff to the bridge and went hunting for a lodging

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which we were fortunate enough to secure.

The next morning the weather conditions were somewhat better. After purchasing a few supplies at one of the Deep Creek stores, we commenced the voyage to Lake Drummond. Our host of the preceeding night had told us of a lock keeper at the lake who would put us up, and, since the weather was so rainy, we decided to stop with him if possible. After rowing for a couple of miles we tied the tent canvass to an oar, which made a first rate sail, and used the tent rope for a sheet. With this rig we made the next ten or twelve miles up the canal in good time, passing several launches and the town of Walliston on the way. This part of the canal had higher banks and less in the way of trees along the banks, although in places there were plenty of trees. Some three miles above Walliston we came upon the mouth of the feeder ditch, as the portion of the canal which branches off to the lake is called.

This feeder is in some places not more than fifteen feet wide and there was a dredge in it at this time deepening, and I believe widening the channel. This dredge very nearly blocked our passage and we had quite a time getting by it. The feeder is three miles long and a hard pull on account of the force of the water flowing from the lake into the canal.

On arriving at the lock, which is within a few hundred yards of the lake, we disembarked and proceeded to get acquainted with the lock keeper. He proved to be very pleasant and readily agreed to our making his shack our headquarters.

We borrowed his boat, which was above the lock, and made our first visit to the lake. It was a beautiful sight, almost a perfect circle of water, of the same dark color as that in the canal, about three miles in diameter and surrounded by a growth of high trees, mostly gums, cypress and juniper. Almost all the way round, extending from the shore to a distance of one or two hundred feet into the water, were a lot of cypress stumps and dead cypress trees, most of them covered with hanging moss.

We spent two days at the lake, during which time it rained, so that we were unable to get many pictures or take the extended trips about the swamp which we had hoped to do. However, we managed to get around considerable and found out many things about the swamp and its animal fauna.

Birds were quite numerous. I saw many Pileated Woodpeckers, "good gods" the swampers call them. There is a small herd of wild cattle near the lake. Bear, judging from the accounts given us, are still fairly plentiful and those who understand hunting them, get several each year. They weigh generally about two hundred pounds when dressed. Deer are getting very scarce. The old practice of driving them to the lake with hounds and killing them while they were swimming has almost cleaned them out. Gray squirrels are still very plentiful. Ducks are said to frequent the lake in real cold weather and fish are said to be plentiful in the right season. One of the swampers told me that "in the Spring we get all kinds of fish." They certainly were not plentiful at the time of our visit. We saw no poisonous snakes, though several species of the non-venomous sort were observed. The list of birds seen and identified during our two days at the lake, comprises twenty-nine species. Several other species were noted but their identity was not positively established. The twenty-nine species are as follows: Great Blue Heron, Green Heron, Black Crowned Night Heron, Solitary Sandpiper, Mourning

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Dove, Turkey Buzzard, Sparrow Hawk, American Osprey, Great Horned Owl, Kingfisher, Downy Woodpecker, Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Kingbird, Blue Jay, Baltimore Oriole, Crow, Goldfinch, Redbird, Towhee Bunting Indigo Bunting, Maryland Yellow-Throat, American Redstart, Catbird, Mockingbird, House Wren, Chickadee, Bluebird.

If we had been able to spend more time at the lake this list would have been much longer. The tall forests, with their undergrowth of brush and briars, together with the more open land and cane brakes, bordering on the lake and canal, afford a variety of shelter for our feathered friends, and the number of them present showed that they appreciate the advantages offered by this locality.

The undergrowth in the swamp is very dense, and in some places there is an abundance of sticky mud, but on the whole the swamp is a pleasant place to visit. Mosquitoes were not at all troublesome on our trip and the natives told me that they were not troubled at all with malaria, nor was swamp sickness more prevalent than in other localities. The canal drains the swamp very satisfactorily which may account for the better conditions prevailing there at the present time.

On September twenty-second we returned to Gilmerton. Arriving in Gilmerton in the day-time, we found that an electric road connected Gilmerton with Portsmouth and we elected to go by trolley. At Portsmouth we took the ferry for Norfolk arriving there just in time to board the steamer for Washington.

The ornithological results of the trip were not as good as I had hoped for. However, we both felt repaid for the trip, in spite of the miserable weather we encountered, and later on I hope to again visit this region when, with more time, I hope to establish a larger acquaintance with its fauna.

F. P. DROWNE, M. D.
Providence, R. I.

Unusual Nesting Sites of the American Merganser. (Merganser Americanus).

By WALTER RAINE, Toronto.

In all ornithological works on North American Birds Nests and Eggs, the nesting situation of this species is given as being in a hole in a tree, after the manner of the Hooded Merganser, Buffle-head, American Golden-eye and Wood Duck. I was therefore very much surprised to find American Mergansers nesting in holes under boulders on an island in Lake Winnepegosis, Manitoba during June 1903.

My son and I found about thirty pairs nesting on Gun Island in Lake Winnepegosis on June 16, 1903. All the nests that we could reach were built far back at the end of dark passages under the bowlders on the highest part of the island, some nests were five or six feet back from the entrance and very difficult to get at. In one hole we caught a female sitting on its eggs, therefore identification was complete, besides the eggs are easily told from other ducks by their very large size averaging 2.60 x 1.80 and their pale buff tint. The down in the nest is also pale greyish white like that of all ducks that nest in holes in the dark.

The nests contained respectively 9.10, and 12 eggs, one nest contained 13 eggs, and one nest contained eggs laid by two females, as could plainly be seen, half the eggs being of a different shape and darker buff tint than the rest.

My son caught a female on the nest and tied a fishing line to it and we were surprised to see how fast it could swim under water using its wings for that purpose, it fairly flew under water, after a while he set it at liberty. The

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male Merganser flew away from the island as our sail boat approached but the females sat close, dashing out of the dark passages as we searched among the bowlders.

On this same island several Red-breasted Megansers had nests, but these were built under dense undergrowth and not at the end of dark passages like the American Merganser nests. The Red-breasted Mergansers' nests contained 8 and 9 eggs each, they are smaller than American Mergansers' eggs, averaging 2.50 x 1.70, the tint of the eggs is a yellowish drab and entirely different to those of the American Merganser, the down also is much darker being of a deep warm greyish tint. Both ducks are very destructive to fish and are therefore disliked by the fishermen. They are known to gunners as sawbills and their flesh is rank and unpalatable.

Late Nesting of Vireo Olivaceus.

RICHARD F. MILLER.

The Red-eyed Vireo (*Vireo olivaceus*) annually rears two brood of young in Northeastern Philadelphia county, Penn., the first brood in June and the second late in July or early in August at the latest, in my experience, August 25th, the second brood has been hatched and left the nest to begin the battle of life and to wage incessant warfare upon the noxious woodland insects. But it is not about the habits of this well known bird that I wish to speak, as my studies of its habits does not differ very much from what have been written about it by more observant students. What I want to record is the finding of a late nest, probably the lattest on record.

The nest in question was found on September 8, 1897, in Juniata Park, at Frankford, Philadelphia County, Penn. It contained 3 eggs, all fresh, which I collected with the nest. It was situated 18 feet up in a maple, well in the wood, suspended from a small horizontal crotch 12 feet from the trunk. It was a typical nest composed of the usual combination of materials and handsomely ornamented—if the spiders' webs and cocoons of caterpiller attached to the outside can be called ornamentions; it was loosely woven to the fork. The eggs were of normal size, ovate in shape, in color white, wreathed with black dots and spots on the long ends.

Now for some suppositions. If I had left the nest and eggs they would require 10 or 12 days in which to incubate and would have hatched on September 18-20, probably on the 18th as the bird would sit and brood more closely and oftener, owing to the lateness of the season. Reasoning that the young hatched on the 18th they would be confined to the nest 10 or 12 days, before being able to leave it, leaving it probably by October 1st, and for the next few days they would need the constant care and feeding of their parents before being able to take care of themselves. It would have been October 4-5 before they would be able to hunt their own food.

Octeber 5! And in less than two weeks the Red-eye migrates to their warm winter home, as my lattest fall record during 7 years of consecutive field observations is October 18, 1897 at this locality—Frankford.

Even had all of the young hatched all or at least two of them would have perished, not from the effects of the cold, although they would have suffered somewhat, but from the lack of food, for at this season of the year most of the insects on which the Red-eye feed are scarce, and they feed to a large extent on berries, such as poke, gum, dogwood and golden bell (*Forsythia viridissenia*). But I have never observed them feed these berries to their young for obvious reason—never

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having found a nest containing young at this season of the year.

My opinion is that the birds would have subsequently abandoned the nest leaving the eggs or young, whatever it may have contained at the time of desertion to their fate, for it would have been impossible for them to procure enough food for the substenance fo their own and the lives of their young.

The White-rumped Shrike in Eastern New York.

On May 18, 1902, while out walking, I came upon a nest, situated in a thorn apple tree, and as the bird which left the nest was new to me, I lost no time in climbing up and examining it. The nest contained five young birds about half-fledged and so I left, but being over in that locality on June 3rd, I looked into the nest and was greatly delighted to find three fresh eggs which I took. I got quite close to the birds which I thought might be White-rump shrikes. They were extremely bold, approaching quite near to my head and making a queer, snapping sound with their bills. This noise could be heard a long distance off and was made as often on the wing as when the bird was at rest. Occasionally they varied this with a cry closely resembling the call of a catbird. Finally both flew away and did not show up again that day. On May 7, 1903, I happened to visit the locality and upon going to the old nest, was surprised to find that the bird had repaired it and laid five eggs which were about one-half incubated. I took four leaving the other as a nest egg to make them lay a second set but was disapointed, as the egg disappeared. I told a friend about the disappearance of this egg and he suggested that the bird ate it. Any way this bird left the locality, and did not come back to it again. On May 1, 1904, while over in the country, some three miles from the old nest, I came upon another pair of White-rumps, and a short search revealed the nest, just ready for the eggs, placed in a pine tree about ten feet up, and well concealed. I went over to the nest on May 7th, but it was empty. The birds were around and so I knew that the nest was not deserted. On May 13th, I went over and found that the nest contained six eggs. These I took together with the nest. A couple of weeks later, a pair of Kingbirds built a nest in the same tree and at present, have young. But to return to the White-rumps. On May 16th, on going over there, I found another nest containing one fresh egg which I left. The same pair of birds had built a nest, a beauty, and laid an egg in three days. Pretty quick work. On May 22nd, I went over and secured the set, also of six.

On June 1st, while looking for High-holes, I chanced to strike the locality again and you can imagine my surprise at finding another nest containing six eggs also. I took four, leaving the other two to the birds, but these disappeared a couple of days later. Either a boy or an animal got them or else the birds ate them. Well, I went over there on June 11th, and I could hardly believe my eyes upon finding another nest, this containing six eggs also. Now, all these nests were within a radius of fifty feet. This pair of birds had, in forty-two days, built four nests, and laid twenty-four eggs. I left the last set and sincerely hope that the Shrikes succeeded in raising their brood. The nest was, in all cases, quite bulky composed of twigs, grasses, rootlets, etc., and very finely lined with feathers. The eggs are, in my experience, from three to six in number, and are greenish grey, spotted with light brown, olive and violet, chiefly at the large end.

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On June 27th, while up near the place where I found the nest in 1902 and '03, I saw another shrike and after a short search found its nest, just deserted by young, placed in an apple tree about twenty feet up. I counted five young and two old birds in various parts of the orchard in which the nest was situated. The pair will undoubtedly nest there in 1905. The birds would swing on dead primrose stems, making a queer noise, probably shrieking with joy. Thus, I know of two pair of White-rump shrikes that have nested in this county (Fulton) and doubtless more have nested as my observations are quite restricted. Summing up the matter, I come to the conclusion that the bird is gradually becoming more abundant in eastern New York and in a few years will undoubtably become one of the commonest of our land birds. Before closing I wish to thank Mr. Benjamin Hoag for identifying properly, these birds from a description which I sent him.

CHAS. P. ALEXANDER,
Gloversville, New York.

One Egg Within Another.

A QUESTION.

To the Editor of the Oologist.

DEAR SIR:—A few days ago a hen's egg was shown me which, from outside general appearance, was the same as any other hen's egg with the exception that the shell was a trifle larger than common but when broken open it was found to contain a peculiar lump enclosed in the white of the egg. This lump was tbe shape of a bean and about an inch long of a dirty yellow color. Nothing unusual about the yoke or the other parts of the white of this egg. The lump mentioned above proved to be another egg with a shell on it Shell was very thick, very near 1 millimeter in thickness, was nearer the structure of a snake's egg than it was of a hen's egg, as it was very pliable and could be pressed out of shape only to return to its natural shape again, yolk was the same or nearly the same as the other yolk with this exception, it was a deeper yellow color. It was not, to my thinking, a reptile's egg nor a hen's egg. What was it? How did it get there, and when? Egg was from the grocery store so can't tell what kind of a hen laid it.

Last spring a White Rock Chicken laid a double egg. The shell I reserved for my collection. It is considerable thicker in structure than customary with hen's eggs, shape of egg is the same as an alligator's eggs. Egg was four inches long and about 1½ inch in diameter. Egg shell contained two complete eggs. Why did this happen?

Thinking that the foregoing would would be of interest to the readers of the Oologist and would also give them a chance to speculate on the formation of two interesting abnormalities, and hoping to learn from your excellent publication more about the two eggs, or I might say four, I am Yours,

EDMUND EVERETT HOBBS,
Binghamton, N. Y.

ANSWER—Double eggs like the second instance Mr. Hobbs gives are common with fowls in captivity, especially hens and ducks. This is very rare with wild birds. In the first case the yolk of the first egg was evidently incased by the first membraneous layer of shell with the white or *albumen* lacking and, being too small to cause the hen to expell it, became a part of and was enclosed in the shell of a second egg.

This is the first instance of this kind to come to the editor's notice.

EDITOR.

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EDITORIAL.

In the matter of that Egg of Dwarf Screech Owl?

I received the communication from Dr. Moody last spring as printed herewith.

Sand Point, Idaho, Feb. 27, 1904.
Editor Oologist, Albion, N. Y.
Dear Sir:

I note in your issue of February, 1904, that you are of the opinion that you are in possession of at least one egg of the Pigmy Screech Owl (Megascops flammeolus idahoensis) collected by Mr. Nelson of Boise. Permit me to doubt your classification. I am very familiar with the locality of Boise and were you so you would not for an instant suppose that the egg sent you could be of that elusive little Screecher. Boise is in the midst of an arid plain covered with sage and with only a few scattering cotton-woods along the streams. There is not an evergreen tree within fifty miles of the place. Then it surely does not stand to reason that this bird of the deep fir and hemlock woods would come away out in desert to choose a nesting site when there are so many more available locations nearer home. The Pigmy Owl is not an uncommom bird in our higher mountains here in Idaho, but I do not remember having seen him lower than 5,000 elevation. The Bitter Root mountains from the north to the south of the state are the home of the Owl and it was only a chance that Professor Merriam discovered it in the Saw Tooth, in Blaine County. I have studied this Owl in Shoshone and Kootenai Counties and have hunted diligently for the nests without avail. I am convinced that they nest early and very high up in the dead tops of the great hemlocks and pines, deep in the gulches. They feed almost entirely at night. I have watched them around the small lakes in the mountains catching frogs and pollywogs. It will require considerable evidence to convince me that Mr. Nelson found this Owl nesting in the Boise Valley. I do not write this in the spirit of carping criticism but to add to the store of knowledge of this little known Owl.

Yours truly.
CHAS S. MOODY, M. D.

As this seemed to need investigating I held the matter open and tried to follow it up a little.

I greatly indebted to Mr. H. C. Mills of Unionville, Conn., for assistance in the matter. I copy from correspondence as follows:

Boise. Idaho, Mar. 21, 1904,
Mr. F. C. Nelson to H. C. Mills.

In this letter Mr. Nelson stated that one live Owl he gave to a Dr. Bartlett, an Englishman who was then traveling through the Northwest and that the Dr. had killed and kept another which he (Nelson) had shot.

This was the bird that was flushed from my egg.

Mr. Nelson states in this letter that he will at once write Dr. Bartlett and find out what he finally found the skins to be.

Under date Oct. 9, 1904, Mr. Nelson writes to Mr. Mills. "I met Dr. Bartlett in Portland, Oregon this summer and he says the birds were *Dwarf Screech Owl.*

I was unable to reach their breeding ground this season owing to high water but a friend of mine informed me that he secured another bird but neglected to save the skin."

I have through the kindness of Mr. Mills, had the pleasure of examining the other three eggs of the set my egg was taken from. They were badly damaged but are in every way duplicates of the egg described and, while the matter is still open, I cannot call them anything but Dwarf Screech Owl as yet.

[EDITOR.]

We would call special attention to two articles in current number of "Condor."

One on the Laysan Albatross by W. K. Fisher profusely illustrated and one on West, Golden-Crown Kinglet by J. H. Bowles.

Some samples of Bird Photo work by B. S. Bowdish deserve special notice.

His bird photos are *good* and the expert work on enlargements and lantern slides from photos are of unusual interest.

The 1905 calenders in decorative leather embellished with prints from photos of bird life are tasty suggestions at Holiday time. You need his photos of Hummers, Meadow larks and Least Flycatchers' nests for your Portfolio.

Publications Received.

"Birds and Nature." Vol. XVI., No. 4.

"Nature Study." Vol. XIII., No. 11.

"Conder." Vol. VI. No. 6.

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Tufted Puffin, m	1 25
European Least Heron, m	48
European Rook	53
European Carrion Crow	52
Lapwing Plover, m	60
Canada Ruffed Grouse, m	60
Swallow-tail Kite	2 20
Holboell's Grebe, m	1 05
Am. Coot, m. 50c; fm	40
Hooded Merganser, m. $1.15; fm	85
Old Squaw, fine male	1 00
Am. Scaup Duck, fm	70
Ruffed Grouse, m	60
Am. Crow, m	38
Cooper's Hawk	55
Bob-white, m., 45c; fm	38
Buffle-head, a beauty, m	90
California Partridge, m	50
Broad-wing Hawk, m. 85c; fm	85
Gray Ruffed Grouse, m	1 00
Green Heron, m.	45
Screech Owl	40
*European Corn Crake	30
Killdeer, m	32
Turnstone, m	55
Cowbird, m. 16c; fm	14
Long-tailed Parrakeet, Marquesas	90
Scissor-tailed Parrakeet, Marquesas	85
Rosy Spine-bill, Marquesas	90
Gilded Flycatcher, Marquesas	40
Snowfinch, Marquesas	40
White-eared Finch, Marquesas	40
Green Thrush, Marquesas	70
Red-capped Hornbill, Marquesas	2 25
Royal Tody, Marquesas	60
Gt-billed Tody, Marquesas	50
Yellow-throated Honey-eater, Marquesas	50
Green-wing Teal, fm	45
Wilson's Snipe	30
Redwing Blackbird, m	16
European Blackbird, m	26
European Starling m	32
California Woodpecker, m	38
Yellow-throated Woodpecker [S.Am] m	35
Arctic 3-toed Woodpecker, fm	70
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Cardinal, m	30
Red-shafted Flicker, m	38
Texan Tufted Tit, m	28
Plumbeous Chickadee, m	38
White-throated Sparrow, m	18
Western Bluebird, m	22
Vesper Sparrow	16
Phoebe	18
Pied-billed Grebe	38
Am. Barn Owl	1 20
*Gt. Blue Heron, yg	90
Am. Egret, fm., pure white	1 50
Snowy Owl, m	2 85
*Marsh Hawk, m	50
*Short-eared Owl	38
Greater Yellowlegs	52
Lesser Yellowlegs	38
Red-backed Sandpiper	40
Pectoral Sandpiper	32
Semi-palmated Sandpiper	30
Least Sandpiper	26
Semi-palmated Plover	32
*Semi-palmated Plover	22
Least Auklet	2 30
Blue Jay, m	24
Calif. Jay, m	30
Rusty Grackle, m. 24c; fm	22
Redwing, Juv	14
Downy Woodpecker, fm	14
Cedar Waxwing, m. 16c; fm	14
Lapland Longspur	32
Bluebird, m	16
Fox Sparrow	18
*Fox Sparrow	14
Oregon Junco, m	20
Gambel's Sparrow, m	18
Bobolink, m	20
Snowflake, fm., 12c; m	14
European White Wagtail	26
" Black-headed Bunting	28
" Grey Thrush	30
" Meadow Pipit	24
*West Wood Pewee	12
*Least Vireo	18
Redpoll	14
White-wing Crossbill, fm	22
Prairie Horned Lark, fm	14
Brown Creeper	14
Harris' Woodpecker, m	38
Mourning Dove	26
Nighthawk	30
Gt. Green Woodpecker, Europe, m	50
Red-bellied Woodpecker, m	24
*Hairy Woodpecker, fm	16
Pine Grosbeak, fm. 38c. m	44
Hermit Thrush	20
Brown Thrasher	20
*Spurred Towhee, m	14
Song Sparrow	14
Intermediate Sparrow	20
Spurred Towhee, fine m	26
Calif. Horned Lark, m	28
Vesper Sparrow	18
Horned Lark, m	28
Tree Sparrow	16
Carolina Chickadee	18
Ruby-throat Hummer, m	50
Slate-colored Junco	18
Red-eyed Vireo	18
Ruby-crown Kinglet, fm	20
Golden-crown Kinglet, m	20
Carolina Wren, m	22
Am. Goldfinch, [winter]	16
Wood Pewee	18
Least Woodpecker, Europe, m	24
Ortolan, Woodpecker, Europe, m	28
Blackburnian Warbler, fm. 24c; m	32
Yellow Warbler, fm. 14c., m	18
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Chestnut-sided Warbler, m	20
Parula Warbler, m	20
Audubon's Warbler, fm. 24c., m	32
Myrtle Warbler, Fall birds	16
Black-polled Warbler, fm	16
*Magnolia Warbler, m	16
Bay-breasted Warbler, fm	32
Ariz. Hooded Oriole, m	30
Bullock's Oriole, m	28
Baltimore Oriole, m	28
*Long-tailed Chat, m	20
Maryland Yellow-throat, fm. 14c. m	18
Am. Redstart, fm., 14c; m	18
Yellow-throated Vireo, m	20
Blue-headed Vireo,	22
Catbird	16
Indigo Bunting, Juv. m. 14c. ad. m	18
Savanna Sparrow	18
Violet-green Swallow	30
Swamp Sparrow	20
Chipping Sparrow	14
Am. Crosbill, fm. 20c m	24
Purple Finch, fm. 16c m	20

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Am. Pipit	22
Oven-bird	18
Water-thrush	24
Slender-billed Nuthatch	24
Red-breasted Nuthatch	20
Purple Martin, fm	22
Wood Thrush	24
Barn Swallow, m	20
Am. Robin, m	22
Tree Swallow, m	20
Towhee, m	24
Meadowlark, m	24
Red-headed Woodpecker, Juv	18
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